60¢

The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

OCTOBER 9th, 1980 ★ VOLUME 15, NUMBER 41

030272
E HOOKER
53 LOCUST AVE
ISLIP NY 11751

HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEW-PORT AM	NEW-PORT PM	DATE
THUR.	8:45	8:55	9:30	9:50	9:25	9:40	10:15	10:35	12:30	12:35	—	12:05	8:35	8:50	10/9
FRI.	9:15	9:30	10:05	10:25	10:00	10:10	10:45	11:10	12:55	12:45	12:25	12:40	9:10	9:30	10/10
SAT.	9:50	10:00	10:35	10:55	10:30	10:45	11:20	11:45	1:05	1:05	1:00	1:15	9:50	10:10	10/11
SUN.	10:25	10:40	11:10	11:30	11:00	11:15	11:55	—	1:30	1:35	1:40	1:50	10:30	10:50	10/12
MON.	11:00	11:15	11:50	—	11:30	11:50	12:30	12:35	2:00	2:15	2:15	2:30	11:10	11:35	10/13
TUE.	11:40	—	12:10	12:30	—	12:05	1:10	1:15	2:40	2:55	3:00	3:10	11:55	—	10/14
WED.	12:00	12:30	12:55	1:20	12:35	12:50	2:00	2:05	3:25	3:40	3:45	4:00	12:20	12:45	10/15
THUR.	12:55	1:25	1:50	2:15	1:30	1:45	3:00	3:05	4:20	4:35	4:35	4:55	1:15	1:45	10/16

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	—0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	—0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	—0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	—0 12
Seaside Park	—0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	—0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	—0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	—0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	—0 02
Rehoboth Beach	—0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	—0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	—0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	—0 38
Democrat Point	—0 38
Coast Guard Station	—0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	—0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	—0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	—0 08
Herod Point	—0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	—0 20
Truman Beach	—0 42
Falkner Island	—0 13
Sachem Head	—0 10
Branford Harbor	—0 07
New Haven Harbor	—0 08
Milford Harbor	—0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	—0 03
Saugatuck River	—0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	—0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	—0 14
Montauk Inlet	—0 25
Montauk Point	—1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	—0 33
Noank, Mystic River	—0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	—0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	—0 10
Execution Light	—0 06
Manhasset Bay	—0 01
Hempstead Harbor	—0 11
City Island	—0 03
Rye Beach	—0 28
Port Chester	—0 09
Mamaroneck	—0 08
New Rochelle	—0 24
Davids Island	—0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	—0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	—0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	—0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	—0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	—0 08
Point Judith Harbor	—0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	—0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

10/10	7:06	6:26
10/11	7:07	6:25
10/12	7:09	6:23
10/13	7:10	6:21
10/14	7:11	6:20
10/15	7:12	6:19
10/16	7:13	6:18

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
10/9	10/17	10/23	10/30

The Original Knight

SOLUNAR TABLES

When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM Minor	AM **Major**	PM Minor	PM **Major**
Thurs.	5:10	**11:40**	5:40	—
Fri.	5:50	**12:00**	6:15	**12:25**
Sat.	6:35	**12:45**	7:00	**1:15**
Sun.	7:30	**1:40**	7:50	**2:00**
Mon.	8:15	**2:30**	8:40	**2:50**
Tues.	9:05	**3:20**	9:30	**3:45**
Wed.	10:00	**4:10**	10:20	**4:35**
Thurs.	10:50	**5:05**	11:15	**5:35**

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About the Cover—

October means surf fishing to a multitude of Long Island anglers. For the latest on what's happening around the Island's beaches, see this week's "Surf Report."

COMING NEXT WEEK: **NORTH FORK BLUES**

Richard Reina, PUBLISHER
Al Ristori, ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Pete Barrett, NEW JERSEY EDITION
W. A. Muller, MANAGING EDITOR
Stu Miller, ADVERTISING MANAGER
Tim Coleman, NEW ENGLAND EDITION
Fred Golofaro, EDITOR
Rich Reina, PRODUCTION MANAGER

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CHUM LINES

ANGERED BY SLOBS

A few weeks ago I took my family for a boat ride to Gilgo Beach on the bay side. As many people know, these beaches are among the most beautiful in the world, with their combination of marsh lands, and bird life. They offer a lot of enjoyment to many people.

Unfortunately, the day was marred due to an argument with a group of young guys and girls that had gathered together for a good time and were drinking a lot of beer. The problem occurred when they were about to leave in their boats. A few of them starting throwing their garbage into the tall grass, and what wasn't thrown away, was left on the sand.

That was a little more than my wife could stand, so she asked them nicely to take their garbage with them. Well, with that some harsh words were exchanged which came close to a fist fight, but they reluctantly took their trash with them. After they left, we noticed two large rats come out from the grass looking for food. That was about it for us. We packed up and left.

Point to be made: I am not against anyone drinking beer on the beach, but it takes the same room on the boat going back as it does going out.

The beaches are for everyone to enjoy, and I am tired of seeing all the broken glass scattered all over the sand. I feel strongly that the Bay Police should periodically check the beach area for such pigs and hand out large fines. Unfortunately, a few slobs can ruin it for the majority. Sincerely, *H. Gottesman.*

Some good points well made Howard! The littering of our beaches and waterways is a disease which can only be cured by educating the slobs responsible for it.

While your anger is justified and your actions valiant, allow me to suggest another tack.

Next time you are confronted with a similar situation, it might be a better idea to simply gather up the refuse in full view of the offenders and not bother to say a word.

I have found this tactic to leave a more lasting impression than a confrontation which could very possibly result in a messy scene.

Picking up after such people is a bitter pill to swallow but helps to ensure future access and cleaner waters for those who appreciate the beauty of our natural resources. Fred Golofaro.

CONSERVATION PLAN

As an avid sport fisherman, I propose this plan for the future.

Have certain areas buoyed off in miles; these areas are not to be fished.

Doing this three season, we shall see the results. If any boat is caught fishing in this area a fine shall be imposed.

Another thing that can be done is during spawning season for some species these areas can't be fished.

Any monies received shall be used by the Fish and Game or Conservation Departments.

Thanking you for your cooperation. *E. Canton, Bklyn., N.Y.*

We assume that you are referring only to sport fishing. However, we wonder why you have decided on this approach when the intensity of modern large commercial fishing vessels has begun to make serious impact on the productiveness of sport fishing. Perhaps there is some merit to bag limits on sport fishermen on the spawning grounds for some species, but that doesn't help us with the commercial fishing problem that we are facing. The inshore grounds are very vulnerable to commercial activity for a variety of reasons. Now, for years the inshore commercial fishing effort was no problem because those efforts were very small. Today, many investors see a way to make millions by constructing and using fleets of vessels. Combine large numbers of large vessels with modern technology and these fleets will have the capability to clean the inshore grounds the way the Russians and other foreign fleets did the offshore grounds in the 1960s. The inshore grounds are the most important to the vast majority of sport fishermen and if those areas become unproductive our sport will die. We need management plans that will prevent the destruction of the inshore fishing grounds and we need these now! Dr. W.A. Muller

NAMES FOR FISHING SPOTS

A friend of mine loaned me his copies of last year's publications and on reading them, I immediately subscribed for them.

Numerous references to fishing areas such as "Tin Can Grounds," "Acid Waters," "N.Y. Bight," etc., are always occurring.

I'm a novice at fishing and would like to make reference to the areas when reading about them. Where can I get a map illustrating these areas for the local areas?

My second question is, would it be ludicrous to surf cast off Coney Island and Brighton Beach? *C. Seidenberg, Bklyn., N.Y.*

In many cases the local name(s) for a fishing spot does not coincide with the map maker's name for the place. This can be very confusing—especially to new fishermen. We receive numerous letters about this and in fact, we ran an "expose" of the Great South Bay FOUR CORNERS area in a July issue. Thus, we try to have our writers refer to places not only by local names but also by specific location. In some cases, even to stating Loran or longitude/latitude numbers. In this case, N.Y. Bight is a very big area. It is the area that is bounded by New York and Long Island on one side and

New Jersey on the other. It is a bight because it is semi-enclosed and receives considerable freshwater run-off. The Tin Can Grounds are in the New York Bight off the Rockaways. The Acid waters are a famous bluefishing location. It is a brown stain area in the Bight where manufacturers dump acid wastes and other chemicals. Your best bet is to have a friendly chat with your local bait and tackle dealer. Ask him about the areas you intend to fish. He can tell you exactly where it is and how to get there as well as to fill you in on precisely how to catch 'em! Dr. W. A. Muller

A POSITIVE ANGLING EXPERIENCE

Blair, my eight-year-old son, and I would like to pass on a most gratifying experience we both shared. As a birthday present for him I decided to take him out on a party boat on the Great South Bay since it is close to home and since it would be calm and hopefully productive for us. I haven't been on a boat in at least twenty years and then only sporadically. My son has never been on a boat and we are both newcomers to the sport of fishing. My subscription to the L.I.F. has opened a new world to both of us and we read your publication together, devouring as much information as possible so we can be the proverbial "overnight successes."

After asking around, we decided to go out on the Casey Lee of Bay Shore. We got on board at 7:30 a.m., Friday, May 30, armed with sandwiches, beverages, snacks, extra shirts, caps and, of course, absolutely no tackle—and I mean none. I told you we were amateurs. I checked out the boat from stem to stern (that's nautical talk) because one can't be too careful before embarking on a trans-oceanic voyage across the treacherous Great South Bay. The boat was spotless. A ruddy-cheeked young lady got us set up with rods, reels, line, bait, etc., put them in rod holders for us and advised us that if we needed anything not to hesitate to ask. I asked her if we were required to wear seat belts for the ride to the fishing grounds. She was kind; a quick reassuring wink and off she went to tend to the others coming aboard. The other mate, a young teen-age lad, was expertly helping the other fares get set-up. Lines were cast aside and off we went. So far, so good. When we reached our fishing area the horn sounded to signal the start of fishing and we couldn't wait to get our lines wet. Remembering all I've read in the L.I.F. about fluke fishing, from how to set up the terminal tackle, which by the way, was set up properly by the mate, to bouncing the sinker on the bottom, I was set to give battle to my first fluke.

My son Blair caught one first. The look on his face as he brought his first fluke to the surface to be netted was worth more than money can buy. He was ecstatic. Now it was my turn. I'll

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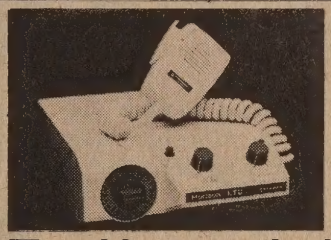

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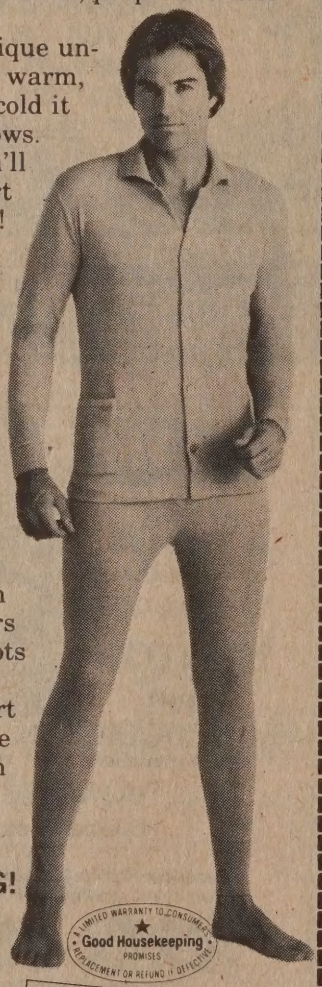

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show the kid how to really land a fish. "Net." I looked to my left. It was my son again, hooked another one and calling for the landing net. Maybe the mate's earlier wink was meant for him. I was starting to feel left out. "Net." That kid again. I was about to ask Captain Neil Delanoy if I could use the kid for chum, when it happened. My rod tip bent, the line went singing through the guides, and a proverbial doormat would soon be mine. "Net," my son shouted, "for my dad." Nuts. I wanted to yell net myself, but he beat me to it. I'll fix him and eat one of his sandwiches when he's not looking. My "monster" fluke was not even a keeper and as he was released I warned him to let his larger relatives know that I was in the area and would be out to get them. I could swear that fish also gave me a reassuring wink.

When the day was done, all our keepers were filleted by the mates and set aside for us. Also caught by my son was a three foot shark, some dog fish and sea robins. I guess that old axiom about beginner's luck still holds true because my son won the boat's pool with a nice three pound fluke. Takes after his old man, right?

In closing, both of us would like to thank the Captain and crew of the Casey Lee for being extremely courteous, helpful and dedicated. Due to the expertise of the crew no one on the boat lost a fish. Also we thank the L.I.F. for an informative and enjoyable publication. Blair and I are both hooked. "Net." *C. Levandowski, Islip, N.Y.*

Thanks for taking the time to share this wonderful experience with us and our readers. Taking a child fishing can be a very rewarding experience and one that allows us adults to build proper character development and help design a meaningful appreciation of nature in our children. We believe that taking a kid fishing has profound results for society. One of the problems that faces our society is the apathy and lack of a "turn on." Thus, unfortunately, many young people look for a turn-on with the help of chemicals and when it persists usually leads to disaster. When a child becomes interested in fishing, however, he or she turns on to nature and an engrossing hobby. We only hope that more children can be helped to discover the joys of fishing. Dr. W.A.Muller.

ATTENTION!!

Would ANTHONY PLINIO PLEASE contact Linda at The Fisherman, 516-725-4200, Ext. 16. Need information from you. Thanks.

Would **ANTHONY CARBONE** please contact Linda at The Long Island Fisherman. We need information from you. 516-725-4200.

NEED YOUR ADDRESS

Would **Eddy Grover** please contact Matt Ahern. He received a contest letter from you, but you did not include your home address.

NATIONAL SCENE
with Al Ristori

WATCH OUT FOR SWORDFISH GILLNETTING!

As if the beleagured swordfish isn't already under enough pressure from the proliferation of longlines, the August issue of the National Coalition for Marine Conservation's newsletter "Right Rigger" reports a new threat on the horizon. It seems that three boats rigged to gillnet swordfish arrived in New Bedford from southern California this summer. On their first trips, two of the boats had twenty thousand pound catches, while the third is said to have lost its net.

Though the amount of swordfish taken in this manner was significant, an even bigger problem is the lost net. According to the report, these nets are eight miles long and one hundred eighty feet deep. As "ghost" nets they'll keep right on fishing—destroying valuable sea life to no one's benefit. Sharks and marlin are also taken by these oceanic gillnets, and there is some likelihood that they can also entrap porpoises and whales. The gillnetting of swordfish and marlin was banned in California after West Coast Coalition leader Herb Kameon led a well organized public protest. The nets were, theoretically, set for thresher sharks—which bring a very high price in the California market.

Now that the California gillnetters have demonstrated that there's a potential pot-of-gold awaiting practitioners of this method in the Atlantic, it's quite possible that we'll see many boats switching over to this gear. It wouldn't be quite so bad if it were swordfish longliners switching over. Though the gillnets would create some gear conflicts offshore and wouldn't be as selective as longlines in their catch, the total impact on the swordfish population probably wouldn't be much different. The real problem is the likelihood that boats presently fishing for other species may make the move. Already there are many Gulf of Mexico shrimp boats moving into longlining after losing their rights in Mexican waters. As previously reported, these boats are also casting a covetous eye on the giant tuna that reside in the Gulf during the winter and are presently only being exploited by the Japanese. Unless the tuna regulations are changed, any giants taken by U.S. boats from the Gulf will count in the small quota assigned to all areas south of Cape Cod. If enough boats get into that fishery, even the presently allowed incidental catch of giants could fill the quota before the fish ever move north! If these boats go to gillnets, rather than longlines, it may save some tuna, but will probably have a very negative effect on all billfish.

An even greater threat is that many New England groundfish boats will make the switch to oceanic gillnets. Since the 200-Mile Limit went into effect there's been a tremendous expansion of the trawler fleet. With the foreign competition out of the way, improving groundfish (cod, pollack, hake, haddock, etc.) stocks and low interest government guaranteed loans led to a tremendous build-up of the fleet and instant prosperity for many. However, now the fleet is greatly over-built and improved supplies have depressed fish prices just as fuel costs have gone sky high. Many of these trawlers are looking to move into other fisheries, and oceanic gillnetting may be attractive to them.

Unfortunately, the long awaited billfish management plan is still probably a year away from implementation due to NMFS obstruction of what should be a rather simple plan, and the consequence is that the Councils have no authority to restrict the use of gillnets. Once boats get rigged up and start fishing them, they'll have "historical" rights and it will be difficult (if not impossible) to move them out of the fishery. Like the giant tuna and the striped bass, the swordfish seems destined to low stock levels in the future due to the high price people are willing to pay for those that remain.

One hope of putting a crimp in the Atlantic gillnetting has been offered by National Coalition Director Chris Weld, who's also a member of the New England Fishery Management Council. He notes that two porpoises were found in a lost net that was retrieved recently and has asked the National Marine Fisheries Service to put observers aboard the gillnet vessels—and to consider taking action against the use of gillnets, using regulatory authority granted under the Marine Mammals Act or the Atlantic Tunas Convention of 1975. The latter authority could be invoked if it was found that these nets also trap bluefin tuna in the protected 135 to 310 lb. class. I'd like to think that NMFS would respond to this situation with prompt action to prevent possible damage to several resources, serious gear conflicts and the unlimited "killing power" of ghost nets. Yet I suspect that the NMFS response will be to hand out loan guarantees to fuel expansion into an "under-developed" fishery!

Tagging Increases Scientific Information

Tagging results reported in the latest Cooperative Game Fish Tagging Program newsletter have added considerably to our knowledge about oceanic game fish. Most startling was the recovery of a white marlin tagged off Oregon Inlet, North Carolina and recovered over nine years later off Block Island. That white was estimated at forty-five pounds when released, and weighed 104 lbs. when recaptured. This broke the old record for time-at-large for a tagged white which was six-and-a-half years. However, the truly startling aspect of this catch was the very obvious inference that white marlin are a relatively long-lived species. The fish in question was already an adult when tagged and, although a very large specimen for a white when recaptured, we do know that some whites grow to considerably greater sizes. Yet it was only a few years ago that most scientists believed that the white was, like the sailfish, a short-lived, fast growing species. The knowledge that the old theory is definitely wrong has enormous implications in terms of fishery management.

While we know a great deal about most non-oceanic commercial fish, we're still very much in the Dark Ages when it comes to basically non-commercial oceanic species. Therefore, our knowledge about these species is advancing by quantum leaps, even though research expenditures have been minimal. Tagging, largely the result of efforts by cooperating sport fishermen, has provided us with most of the information we've been able to gather relative to growth, life expectancy, and migratory routes.

Fortunately, a great many whites are being tagged every year, thus leading to enough recaptures with which to provide very meaningful information. On the other hand, very few blue marlin have been tagged and only thirteen recovered—leaving us with very little information upon which to make management decisions. As a good recovery rate for oceanic species is a mere three percent, it's obvious that more tagging must be done—both by the sportsman and the government. One hopeful sign for the tagging program is the use of NMFS observers aboard Japanese longliners to tag billfish and sharks that must be released. Last year NMFS observers tagged 132 white marlin, 44 blues, 10 sailfish and 41 swordfish. Proof of the value of this work was provided by the recapture of two whites tagged by observers in the Gulf of Mexico in 1978 which were caught off the Virginia Coast in 1979. This is the first evidence of migration of whites from the Gulf to the mid-Atlantic! If Congressman Murphy stands by his word, observer coverage on Japanese longliners will be increased from the present twenty percent this year to one hundred percent next year. Hopefully, this will result in a very great improvement in the tagging situation.

FISH TALK
with William A. Muller

UPDATE VARIETY

RECENT NEWS RELEASES! In recent weeks we have received several interesting news releases and information sheets. Some have come from readers and some from agencies and private interest groups. We think that you'll be interested in much of this material because it affects recreational fishing either directly or indirectly.

FOR EXAMPLE! Take, for example, a sheet that came in from the New York Sea Grant Extension Program entitled "New York Commercial Fisheries Update." The lead-in sentence explains that the commercial fishing boom caused by the 200-Mile Limit came to an end this spring with an astonishing drop in prices. In one commercial seaport—New Bedford—the recent boom resulted in an increase of six hundred men to the fishing fleet and an increase of about thirty percent in the number of vessels. However, in February, 1980 average fish prices fell from about forty-five to fifty cents per pound to about ten to fifteen cents per pound. The paragraphs that followed tried to make a case that Canadian fish bought in the United States because the cost of processing would be about fifteen cents less, were responsible for the drop in domestic prices. It seems that New England fishermen have been opposing a proposed fishing treaty between the United States and Canada and in response, the Canadians have been flooding the market with about fifteen percent more fish than last year. Now, all this sounds logical; however, the analytical mind then extends beyond this rhetoric in order to test the hypothesis. Although it is obviously true that the increase in the amount of Canadian fish did suppress prices somewhat, it is not reasonable to conclude that domestic fish prices should drop eighty percent due to a fifteen percent increase in the amount of Candian fish imported.

THE REAL ISSUE! The real issue seems to be the boom itself. Certainly we can find many examples to demonstrate the age-old relationship between supply, demand, and price in a free market system. To put it bluntly, the boom added too many vessels (and incidentally, the number of commercial vessels is still increasing) and too many people to the industry. The newcomers with improved technology and bigger vessels took many more fish than the ecosystem can reasonably support and the domestic economy can absorb. Thus, where demand **had** been high and supplies averaging out about moderate, the prices remained high. The boom increased supplies but did not increase demand and thus the result has been a sudden decline in market prices when the market became saturated. Curiously enough, the declines in prices at the buyers' level has not been reflected at the retail level and at the local fish market the prices continue to soar. Thus, somebody's making big bucks out of this disaster.

NO SYMPATHY! However, we cannot feel sympathy for the commercial fishermen. They have insisted on clinging to an archaic philosophy that has as its basic premise that the sea can produce unlimited quantities of food and that any and all are welcome to the industry. There is no other industry that supports such an absurd point of view. The farmer knows that if there are more farmers producing more foodstuffs, that prices will fall. The car makers know that if there are more car makers making more cars, that prices will fall. When prices tumble somebody goes out of business—usually the small independent whose capital reserves cannot carry him through difficult times. Thus, the big get bigger by waiting for the little guy to drop out. What do you think will happen to the individual small commercial fishing company that is usually family operated in the years ahead? That's right! Out of business, and with them will go a family's heritage. Technology will keep pace for awhile and catches will stay up there until that time is reached when the stocks have been decimated to a point where no amount of technology and no amount of effort can overcome the sheer lack of fish. Then, the industry will die. Unfortunately, so, too, will recreational fishing. Wake up, commercial fishermen! Government and big business are cooperating—and that's always dangerous. Take, for example, the Canadian situation. The reason that Canadian fish are cheaper is that government subsidizes commercial fishing, combined with the price of diesel fuel in Canada which is thirty-nine cents per gallon.

MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL FISHERIES COUNCIL. Recent announcements and Meeting Minutes still reveal that the Council continues to hold its meetings at locations that are convenient to Marine Fisheries service personnel. Typically, meetings are in Philadelphia and Delaware. Although the turnout of the general public and interested media is usually light to many meetings, the opportunity should exist for proper exposure of the Council, its members, and its activities to all the people who live in the Mid-Atlantic region. We can't remember the last meeting in New York. Remebering that on Long Island there are 2.3 million recreational fishermen alone, the noticeable lack of Long Island meetings seems a disgrace and a slap in the face to the people of Long Island. We again request a change in policy!

NICE NOTE FROM MECLI! George Wilde at MECLI has always been thoughtful and frequently sends us notices, as well as ideas that the group has about various marine related subjects. The MECLI group has been hounding the Nassau County Department of Public Works for the facts surrounding continued breaks in the sewage outfall pipe that leads away from the Cedar Creek control plant. According to MECLI, somebody "goofed" in the construction, and faulty construction has resulted in millions of gallons of secondary treated wastes emptying into the Bay. Apparently, counter-measures that call for the addition of chlorine to the waste has caused a sharp

Electron microscope photos (60X) of dull versus sharp hook points.

increase in the amount of chlorine into the Bay. The problem seems to get more complicated. However, in a letter sent to MECLI by Michael R. Pender, the Commissioner of the Nassau County Department of Public Works, "We have given verbal permission to start (corrective measures) prior to the actual granting of the permits." Thus, we can hope for a speedy solution to the nasty ongoing problem. Unfortunately, the Commissioner also stated that "...at this time, we cannot make any projections as to how long it will take for corrective procedures."

FROM HAROLD PETRAK. "I do most of my fishing on the South Shore in the area of Zachs Bay and other back-bay waters. I am troubled this year by the disappearance of the bunker in that area. Can you tell me what caused this disappearance. Is there any place that's selling live bunker?" Sorry Harold, but to the best of our knowledge there is no retail outlet for live bunker. Some fellas do buy live bunker from trap fishermen and kids who snag them for extra bucks, but you can't go to a tackle store to buy live bunker. Even worse, I have called around to ask if tackle stores have fresh-dead frozen bunker in stock and most have told me that they only have last year's fish. Now, in recent years it has been my habit to do quite a bit of bunker fishing for blues from the beach and I have found, as I'm sure you have, that old bunker turns to mush and isn't worth a damn. Why haven't the bunker been abundant in your area? Don't know. Bunker are like other fish. They swim from here to there in search of food. In this case, the bunker eat plankton. Thus, perhaps the normal plankton levels have been less than can support large schools of bunker in the areas you mention. I do spend quite a bit of time on the South Shore and although I haven't seen great quantities of bunker, and although I do not spend much time near Zachs Bay, I have seen schools of bunker in the South Shore back bay. I'll bet that the bunker will show up this fall in the usual places when the bass and blues start to herd them.

OUTDOOR TECH FACTS! This rather valuable newsletter comes to us regularly from Berkley, the company that makes many fishing products, including Trilene Line. Trilene scientists asked the question: "Why do some people always seem to come back with more fish stories and less fish?" The Tech Facts Sheet recounts how many anglers may feel a strong hit and miss the hit or hardly feel a hit and yet lose their baits. Why? They found that the two most important elements outside of the angler's skill, were the line and the hook. Monofilament and lines made of other materials such as Dacron have differing characteristics. Some lines have great knot strength, but may sacrifice some other trait. Thus, not all lines transmit the signal of a striking fish with equal effectiveness. However, most people end up using a line that satisfies most of their demands and learn to compensate for deficiencies. The Trilene scientists, however, focused their attentions on the hook and discovered some interesting facts. First, many fishermen fish with dull hooks. A simple survey of your friends will prove the point. Ask them how many fish with hooks right out of the box. The answer will astound you. Of these, ask how many use hooks right out of the box without additional sharpening because they believe that the hooks are sharp. Again, you'll find that most believe the hooks are sharp, while a small group will confess that they are too lazy to sharpen hooks before using. The scientists took hooks out of a tackle box that seemed reasonably sharp and put them under a microscope. The accompanying photo tells the tale better than words. To quote the scientists, "The average hook point in a tackle box felt sharp on a fingertip. Under a microscope they looked about as sharp as a ten penny nail." A dull hook, the scientists tells us, takes two to three times more force to drive home. Thus, for the serious fisherman there is a very distinct advantage to using sharp hooks. Under normal fishing conditions, the importance of sharp hooks can't be denied; but under adverse conditions sharp hooks are absolutely necessary. Consider the condition of a cross wind when there is so much slack that the signal of a strike comes late and light. Then, too, a needle point hook can grab hold even before the fisherman has a chance to set the hook and although the hook is not embedded, the sharp point has grabbed tissue and thus gives the fisherman a few seconds to react.

HOW TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM! Take the time to re-sharpen hooks with emery or a fine jeweler's file. The Trilene scientists found that careful, but simple sharpening did wonders, as the second photo shows. But how about that line? Given the fact that all lines differ somewhat in a variety of ways and that not all lines may transmit signals equally well, what can the fisherman do to improve the hook setting ability of the lines he uses. The answer may surprise you. The scientists found that lines of thinner diameter means improved hook setting. They found that a decrease in line diameter of only 1/100 of an inch caused a sharp increase in hook setting power. Now there are some brands that boast a thinner diameter, but the only clear way to reduce diameter is to use lighter lines. I can hear all the ultra-light fans now! "See, lighter tackle is better." Well, yes and no. Anybody who has used both light and heavy tackle knows that many strikes are lost with light tackle. However, we now know it isn't the line. Then it must be the rest of the tackle that goes with it—like whippy rods that bend like twigs. The trick, then, to improve hook setting power by using lighter lines is to use the lighter line on the same old stiff pole. But there's a rub. A sharp thrust with a stiff rod using light lines frequently means "pop" goes the line!!

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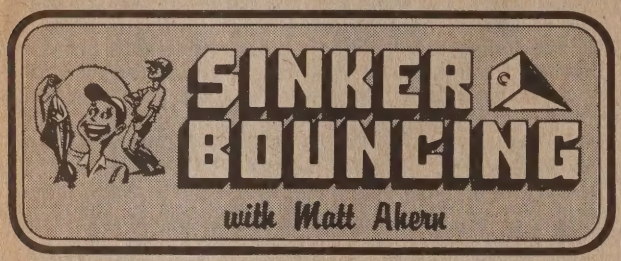


SALTWATER BULLDOG—Part One

He isn't much for looks, but he's a bulldog on our hooks. I first heard this amusing ditty on a crisp November morning nearly fifty years ago while serving as an apprentice mate aboard a party boat anchored off Sea Bright, New Jersey. Not only were the words aptly descriptive, but the handful of passengers aboard that day were actually catching bulldog blackfish. For the record, I recall few fish under five pounds. It was a memorable blackfishing day, perhaps the best I've ever had, and eventually I'll write it up for the Old-Timers' Corner. But for now, let's see what there is about this finny character that causes dedicated fishermen to sing its praises.

I don't know if you are one of those fishermen who find blackfish easy to catch. If so, congratulations. You are either a superb bottom fisherman, or one of those rare fellows with natural talent who automatically knows what to do without prior knowledge of the problem. In the business world, those who fit the latter description are called geniuses. I have yet to meet one in the fishing game.

But I have met multitides of superb bottom fishermen; bottom fishermen who know the fishing game backwards, forwards, upside down, and any other way you can think of. Most of these fellows admit this finesse came as a result of deep love for and an abiding interest in the fishing game.

But not until they learned how to catch blackfish did the realization come that they were merely skimming the surface of knowledge needed to become proficient in the art of sinker bouncing. It wasn't until they got to the bare root of blackfishing that these fellows became master fishermen. When they learned how to catch the wily blackfish, then, and only then, did the bottom fishing game become duck soup—for them!

Scoff if you wish, those who care to—for that is your privilege. But I would think twice before doing so. To ignore or take lightly the combined consensus of master fishermen is to remain a frustrated, mediocre fisherman.

Hard words? Yes, indeed. But you had better believe them.

I have never seen or known a crackerjack sinker bouncer who wasn't first a crackerjack blackfisherman. All nonsense, you say? And with the same derisive breath you relate the times when all you did was put a baited hook on bottom and up would come the hoped-for flounder, fluke, or what-have-you. Of course you did—and so have thousands of other fishermen. But what happened on those days when those hoped-for flounder, fluke, or what-have-you decided to put on the finicky act?

I'll tell you exactly what happened. In the midst of your frustration, along came this fellow who plunked himself down close by, a fellow who first made tentative casts to get the "feel" of things, or whatever he considered necessary to test the existing conditions, and in less than five minutes this fellow was dropping one fish after another into his bucket—those very same fish you swore didn't exist five minutes before.

Sound familiar? If you've been fishing any length of time and having only minimum success, I'm sure it does. Now, I hope you didn't think that fellow was "lucky." For if you did, I have only this to say: unless you change your convictions, I'm afraid there's no hope for you. Again hard words, but again, you had better believe them. Let me tell you a story to bring this out.

Did you ever know or hear of a fisherman who excelled so well at the game he was actually embarrassed to catch fish if it meant doing so would show up another fellow's lack of expertise? I did. His name was Matt Smith and the only reason I use his name now is because Matt has been gone for many years and there's no way he will become embarrassed by its disclosure.

When I first met Matt, he was already in his late forties, while I was barely in my mid-teens, but we hit it off pretty well, especially when one considers I was a rank amateur at the fishing game and he was a past master. Quiet and unassuming, cultured and kind was Matt Smith. Truly, if ever there existed a fisherman who hid his light under a bushel, it was Matt.

Matt was the type of person who should you, for instance, assert that fluke were easy to catch, would carefully refrain from comment, and then subtly lead you around to his way of thinking in such a manner one had no inkling or awareness of the transition. One learned, for instance, that fluke were easy to catch—sometimes; and one also learned that fluke could become difficult to catch—most times. And of most importance, why this paradox was so.

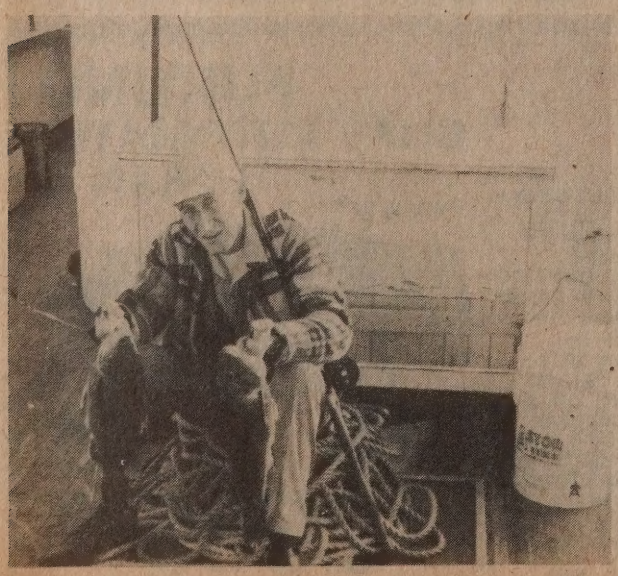
I relate these personal things about Matt for better understanding of what follows.

One late September day, Matt and I decided to make a trip to Sheepshead Bay and fish from the bay wall. My interest lay in the late-season snapper fishing, while Matt had more lofty plans for the good-sized blackfish he so dearly loved to catch. I guess we spent an hour or so without too much success as far as Matt's particular fishing was concerned. I managed a few snappers but Matt had yet to catch a decent-sized blackfish.

As our bay fishing showed no inclination to improve, we decided to pack up and walk to the sea wall at Manhattan Beach and try there. I was agreeable enough, for the area often produced super snapper fishing and perhaps there might be better-sized blackfish on tap, although, as Matt pointed out, it was a little early in the season for that.

At the time, fishing this particular area of Manhattan Beach was permitted; there were no restrictions whatsoever. Today, I am told, a chain link fence runs the length of the area and the "No Fishing" sign is up. Too bad if this is so, for many a fine fluke, sea bass, and porgy I've gotten there with little, if any, competition from other anglers.

And so it was when we arrived after that boring walk through those long residential blocks which separate the bay from the ocean. No more than the expected handful of fishermen were scattered along the length of the sea wall;



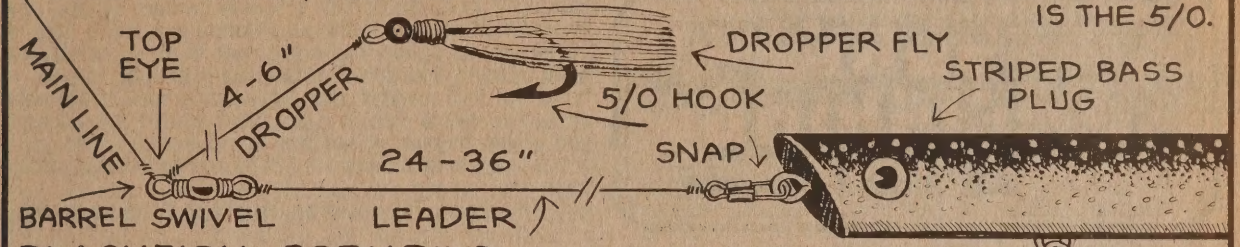
Matt and two average-sized fall blackfish.

(Continued on page 13.)

FISHERMAN TIPS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

OLD RIG SURFACES AGAIN... THE DROPPER FLY TIED AHEAD OF THE MAIN LURE HAS BEEN CATCHING STRIPED BASS ALONG THE NORTHEAST COAST BECAUSE THEY APPARENTLY IMITATE SANDEELS. USED WITH JIGS, DROPPERS ALSO PRODUCE WEAKFISH, COD AND POLLACK. THE MOST USED DROPPER FLY HOOK IS THE 5/0.



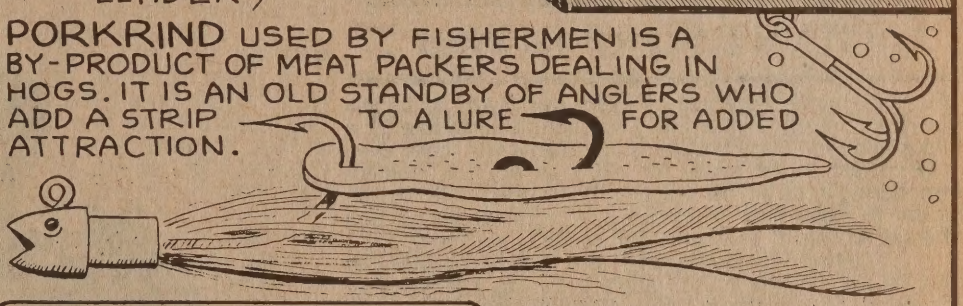
BLACKFISH CRAB BAITS IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE ARE *HERMIT CRABS, GREEN CRABS AND FIDDLER CRABS*. SOFT BAITS SUCH AS CLAMS AND WORMS WILL TAKE BLACKFISH BUT THEY CAN NEVER GET PAST THE BERGALLS WHICH PATROL THE ROCKS & REEFS.

HERMIT CRAB

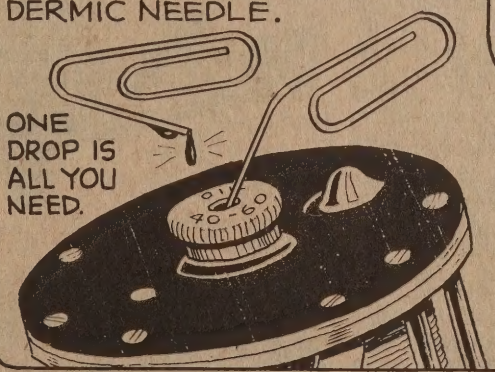
GREEN CRAB

FIDDLER CRAB

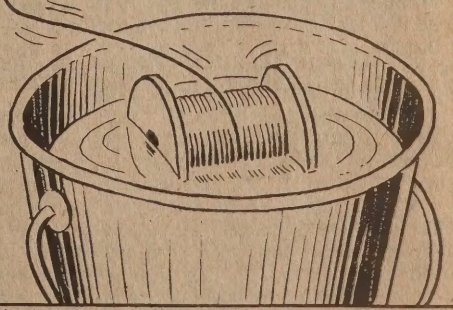
PORKRIND USED BY FISHERMEN IS A BY-PRODUCT OF MEAT PACKERS DEALING IN HOGS. IT IS AN OLD STANDBY OF ANGLERS WHO ADD A STRIP TO A LURE FOR ADDED ATTRACTION.

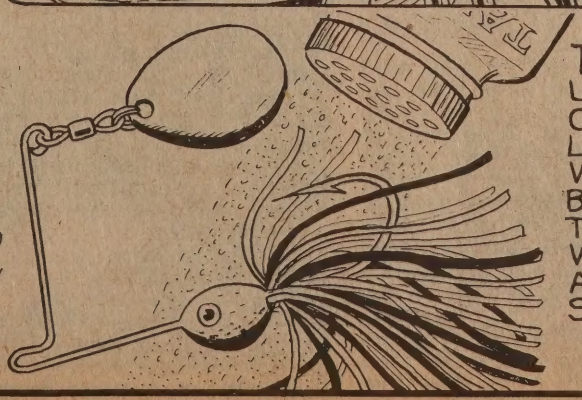


PAPER CLIPS STRAIGHTENED OUT, CAN GET OIL INTO THOSE PRESSURE TYPE HOLES SUCH AS FOUND ON PENN REELS. USE ONE CLIP TO HOLD SPRING LOADED BALL OPEN, THE OTHER CLIP TO DROP OIL IN THE PRESSURE HOLE. IT IS A NEATER JOB THAN THE ALTERNATIVE BUT NOT AS GOOD AS A HYPODERMIC NEEDLE.



EASY REEL LOADING... PLACE NEW SPOOL OF LINE INTO PAIL OF WATER WHERE IT FLOATS AND TURNS EASILY AS THE LINE IS WOUND ON THE REEL. THE WATER PROVIDES ENOUGH FRICTION TO PREVENT OVERRUNNING AND BACKLASHES. THE LINE IS ALREADY WET AND INITIATED BY THE TIME IT RESTS ON THE REEL SPOOL.





THE RUBBER SKIRTS USED ON MANY LURES CAN BECOME STICKY AND LOSE THEIR ELASTICITY WHEN KEPT IN A TACKLE BOX. YOU CAN PREVENT THIS BY DUSTING THEM WITH TALCUM POWDER AND STORING THEM IN SEPERATE BOXES OR PLASTIC BAGS.

GIANT SURF BLUES

Located at the confluence of the Hudson, East, hackensack, and Passaic Rivers, Staten Island is blessed with a super strong current that makes it a natural home for many game fish species. These voracious fish only have to wait in ambush for any of the myriads of baitfish that get caught up in the currents, making them an easy prey and meal. Most ferocious of these gamesters, the giant blue—often present in excess of twelve pounds—hunts these waters every day trying to fill his belly and making him a highly susceptible candidate for a hook and line. Once hooked, these giants will make even the coolest angler sweat for many an anxious moment wondering if the big fish will ever be beached. The big fish seem to move into the beaches as summer wanes and harass schools of baitfish within range of surfmen.

Let's begin by looking at where these big brutes can be caught. In the north, anglers fishing the piers at Stapleton early in the morning on an outgoing tide seem to do well. Although this area produces fish all day long on occasions, the most productive times seem to be when the current is moving strong and the baitfish must use the piers to help block them from the current just about dawn. Then, enter the big blue and mayhem seems to result. At times like these, the big blues go for cut baits fished directly on the bottom. We'll get into the rigs to use later; but as for the bait, fresh bunker, mackerel, or even snapper blues all will suffice.

Often, these big fish will drive a school of bunker into the shore between the piers that are aligned there. Once this occurs, all you've got to do to score is cast into the mayhem where the bunkers are jumping frantically and snag a few. Cast out any treble-hooked lure, such as the Hopkins Shorty, through the bunker with a jerky retrieve. The blue may mistake the Shorty for a fleeing bunker and grab it, making your approach simple, or you can foul hook a bunker and allow it to drop down to the blues waiting below. Another approach is to reel the bunker in and put it onto another pole set up with a bait rig.

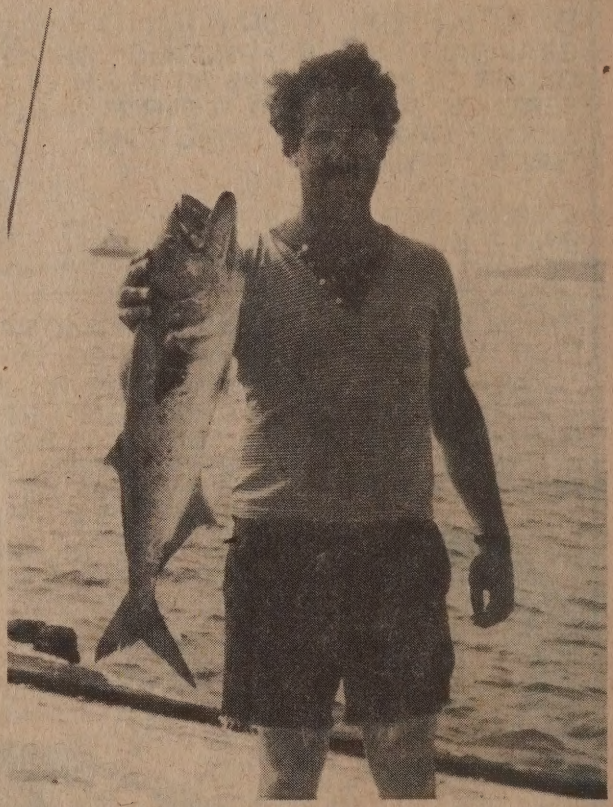
You can also cast lures for blues off of these piers and often the hottest of these lures are giant swimming plugs such as the Danny, Creek Chub, or Atom Plug. Simply put a line or two out on the bottom and with another pole, cast out and retrieve one of the above-mentioned lures. Also used here are bucktails; all yellow or white fished with a strip of tail-hooked pork rind trailing it, and tins. One thing to remember is that you won't always score with lures or bait and in order to be in on the action, you're going to have to put some time in. That means select a location and then visit it quite frequently.

Another good spot from which to fish for these giant blues is off of South Beach. Often big blues chase bait right up to the shore where anglers cast large swimming plugs or tins and take their share of fish. Tides aren't as important at this spot, but early goers surely have the best of the fishing, with dawn being a very good hour. Sand sharks and crabs are in here, too, and baits must be either checked often or fished on a float off of the bottom where the crabs can't bother it. The best baits here are bunker and shedder crabs. The reason is that both are plentiful and make up a good portion of the choppers' diet in this area.

Along this shore line, you'll find many storm sewers where strong runoffs have formed big holes in the sand directly at the ends of them. Therefore, storm sewers are good places to fish because they hold enough water for the larger fish to hide while waiting for baitfish to make a fatal mistake.

Next come Midland and New Dorp. These two beaches are adjacent and each offer places where the big guys come in to feed. There are pilings and bulkheads in the area where little fish come in to hide. Places like these breed bigger fish. The bigger fish have an advantage here, however, and that's how they can really tangle you up in these obstructions if you're not cautious. Along with cautious, it pays to fish a buddy system where, once you've hooked a big fish, your buddy can stand near the obstacles and splash the water near them should the fish head in their direction. This is usually enough to keep the blues out in the water and away from most of the beach obstacles. Many fish are lost here and to be successful you've got to plan ahead and know exactly what you're going to try to do in order to beach any fish that you might have on.

The time to fish these beaches is early in the morning,



Allan Marantz displays a teen-size blue that took a bunker chunk fished from one of the Stapleton piers.

Business end of a twelve pounder that fell for a bucktail jig and a strip of fresh mackerel.

and then again late in the afternoon near dusk and especially if such times are going to coincide with high tides. At times such as these, blues come in and patrol. They're highly susceptible to swimming plugs and they won't turn their noses up at any cut baits fished right on the bottom.

Further to the south, you come upon the Gateway National Park which stretches out to encompass Great Kills Harbor. Here, in the harbor, many baitfish grow throughout the summer and in the late summer, they're slowly pushed out of the inlet where hordes of hungry blues feed on them. Bunker and spearing make up much of this bait and, therefore, casting lures by day and cut baits at night are the best ways to score here.

At the inlet to the harbor, there's a channel running from the mouth of the inlet directly along the beach and out to the bell buoy marking its entrance. In this channel, you can catch some very big fish at night on an outgoing tide. The tide seems to trigger the action in that it sweeps the baitfish out of the harbor and into the mouths of the wating fish. Again, fresh bunker is the ticket.

As far as where to get your bunker, you can either snag your own with either a gang hook or a treble-equipped tin when the bunker swim within range. You can also pick up your bunker at a local tackle shop.

Below Great Kills Harbor, I like to fish at Arbutus Beach. Here you can either fish directly off a beach or bulkhead. I like to walk the beach early in the morning and watch out for any action which might give the presence of bluefish away while casting metal in hopes of beaching a straggler or two. Very few fishermen fish here, but don't let that fool you. This is a good location that's loaded with many big and small fish alike. I usually bring two poles and fish one with a bunker on the bottom, while I work tins nearby with the other rod. This is usually only productive during high water and that's because at low tide, much of the water here recedes, leaving a lot of visible sand. At low tide, I fish directly off the storm sewer with bait.

Finally, you come to Princess Bay and Tottenville where there's a lot of open beach space, many shore line obstacles, and many places where a channel runs very close to the beach. This is a good area to fish fresh bait in hopes of nailing a trophy.

Let's talk about the rigs you'll require in order to best take a big fish or two. First of all, let me give you my favorite rig. It's a fish finder that utilizes a lot of wire and a tuna hook to fool these brute bluefish. It's made like this: using about twenty pound test line, run a bank type sinker up your line so that it's free to move along the line. Impede its downward progress with a barrel swivel, off of which you run about eighteen inches of forty pound wire line to a #7 tuna hook. If the water's very clear, or if you're fishing in the middle of the day, you may cut down on the length of wire you are using, but keep the distance from the swivel the same. At night, there isn't any problem fishing this length of leader. Simply hide your hook in the bait, cast out, and be ready to react to any hit. Oh yes, another important thing to remember here is to release all tension on your drag. Sometimes the blue will hit so fast and with enough power to pull your pole right on into the water. If this should occur, you'll be safe if you haven't any tension on your drag thereby allowing the fish to run off with your line and not your pole.

Now, once a hit has been registered, pick up the pole, tighten your drag, reel to your bait, and if the fish is still on there, sock the hook home. Then, hang on, because here is where the sweating starts. A mean customer, the giant blue is a tenacious battler and isn't going to give up without one hell of a battle. Most times guys aren't prepared to tighten their drags and once they have a fish on, they over-tighten in their exuberance and allow the very strong fish to break their line. Therefore, practice just how tight to make this drag so that when it really counts, you won't miss a fish over something so simple.

When fishing lures, remember two things. If there are a lot of fish breaking water and it's daylight, use a fast retrieve. While after dark, a slow retrieve is much more effective.

Finally, since you've gone to all of this trouble, please don't lose that fish because your line was old and frayed or because you have used some cheap swivel. Make certain to check or change your line regularly. As for swivels, I use Sampo Coastlock Swivels. Expect to pay a good penny for them. I believe they are the best and you won't lose a fish because he straightened out some cheap hunk of wire.

If you follow this advice and fish frequently, you should do all right with the monster choppers that make Staten Island and Raritan Bay their home.

SINKER BOUNCING: Saltwater Bulldog

(Continued from page 10.)

but unfortunately for my companion, the area he planned to fish was already occupied by two fishermen. This spot was the only one in the immediate vicinity known to harbor blackfish. Matt had previously told me he was certain the remains of a small boat or some type of wreckage lay in that particular area, an area which consisted mostly of mussel beds. If so, this haven was ideal for blackfish. But as I say, the place necessary for casting in order to reach this spot was already occupied and Matt, of course, was too much of a sportsman to even remotely interefere with someone else, no matter how desperate he was to fish.

We watched for awhile, but saw no action. "You fish, Matt," my friend said, selecting a comfortable seat on the rocks. "Those fellows don't seem to be doing too well. Maybe they'll give up. If they do, I'll give it a try."

I began fishing and in-between snappers I kept my eye on our two erstwhile fishermen. Not doing too well was an understatement, for I didn't see a fish come up. And as Matt had predicted, they eventually began to pack up, making preparations to leave. Then, and only then, did Matt declare his intention by moving in. "You're wasting your time, Jack," one fisherman said. "There's not a blackfish to be had." Evidently we weren't the only ones who knew about blackfish being in the area.

"Could be," Matt replied. "We'll see."

"Two bucks says you don't connect," the other fisherman challenged, who, I'm sure, must have been the most disgruntled and a sport to boot.

This promise of excitement and challenge was too much for me to continue snapper fishing. I lay my rod aside and joined in. "You're gonna lose your money, mister," I told the sport.

"Maybe yes, maybe no, sonny," the sport replied, "but I don't think so. We've been here since sunup without a fish."

Well, there's no further need to elaborate. Within five minutes, Matt lifted the first blackfish onto the rocks, to be followed by three more in rapid order. None of these fish was large, no more than two pounds tops. The disgruntled sport was as good as his word, however. He shook his head in disbelief and handed Matt two dollars. "Give it to the kid," he was told. And I was in two bucks.

Now this story is a prime example of exactly what I mean. I don't know how much experience those fellows in the long ago had at the time (they weren't beginners by a long shot), but whatever the amount, it wasn't enough to dig out fish not in a biting mood. But for a master fisherman such as Matt Smith, there was no difficulty at all. It was duck soup.

And this is the way it is for fishermen possessing the ability of which Matt was a shining example. It makes no difference to these fishermen what kind of fish they seek—if they can be caught, they will surely get them. But as Matt told me one time as we were discussing this, it wasn't until he became proficient at the art of blackfishing that he also became a truly confident fisherman. And this is exactly what master fishermen of my acquaintance tell me today.

Therefore, if you or a fishing buddy are Doubting Thomases, doubt no more. Learn to catch the wily blackfish, and all those other bottom feeders you desire so much will go into your bucket with such regularity, it will positively amaze you.

Next week we'll get into exactly how to do that.

Western Roundup

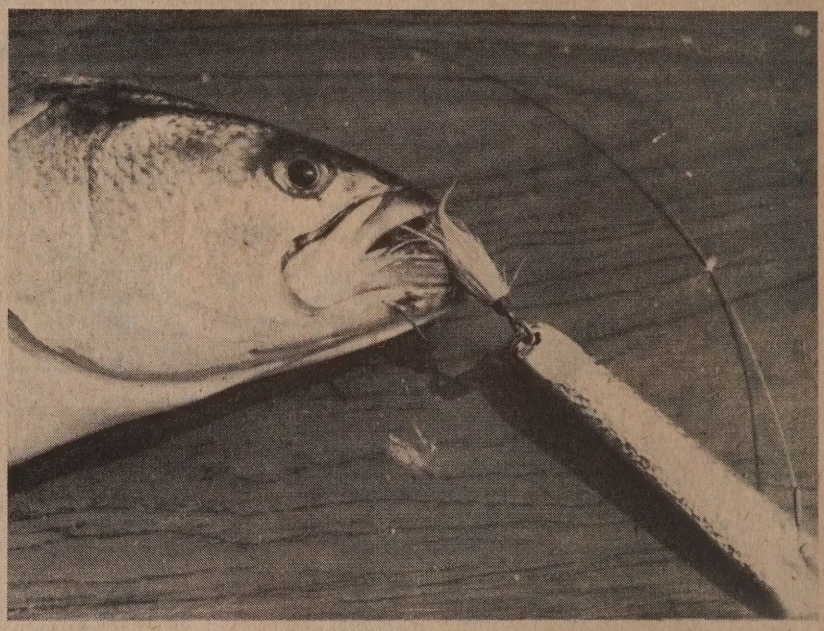
by Andy Regina

Autumn is our most spectacular season. Trees blaze with color, cheeks grow rosy-red; waterfowl are seen flying south or rafting-up on the Sound, and fish bite in suicidal fashion—anxious to fatten-up prior to long migrations or expected cold weather ahead. Fall harvests are reaped by astute fishermen as well as prudent truck farmers, vying with each other to exploit the abundant cornucopia of nature's generous bounty in this season of plenty. The very air is filled with expectation in our anxious anticipation of things to come; an annual occurrence that we fishermen have come to expect since time immemorial.

We have good reason to be anxious, for just as surely as the waterfowl raft up and fly south, game fish such as bluefish and striped bass, form large schools that feed heavily prior to their own southern migrations. Warm water species, such as fluke, porgies, and bluefish are eagerly replaced by fish preferring cooler water temperature. Soon our fair weather friends are forgotten as we get involved with winter flounder, blackfish, and migrating striped bass; not to mention the invasion of cod and whiting that could get under way at any time, once water temperatures cool enough to their liking.

Fall is heralded by those cold, wet nor'easters that signal the termination of summer with their chill winds and cold rain. This seems to put the spurs towards getting things started piscatorially, by lowering existing water temperatures, thus initiating the annual migration departure of many baitfish. This induces the game fish to follow suit, and they feed heavily on the massed migrants as they also seek warmer climes.

The smart fisherman welcomes these nor'easters, for not only do the storms lower water temperatures, but by the very nature of their direction, drive bait close to shore. This makes the North Shore of Long Island the ideal place to be in the fall, if you're a beach rat and crave some action. Because the bait is often blown close to the beach, shore-based fishermen are now lucky enough to be well within casting range of any predatory striped bass, bluefish, and weakfish that harass the hapless baitfish. There is no more watching and waiting, praying that the diving birds will drift closer to the beach, signalling feeding game fish within your reach. Now you can reach the fish, and they're receptive to almost everything you throw at them: plugs,



Tins account for lots of choppers when northerly winds churn the sound surf.

tins, or bait.

Daylight hours should see popping plugs and metal lures producing well, while darkness should signal the use of either swimming plugs or fresh bait. Eel skin plugs (swimming plugs with an eel skin slipped over 'em) and either live or rigged eels also produce well at night. A fresh chunk of bunker (menhaden) will score when all else fails, day or night, for bass or blues, and worm fishermen using seaworms on float-buoyed fishfinder rigs will not only catch their share of old Roccus, but can count on tiderunner weakfish as well.

Day or night, baitfishing can be a waiting game, so extreme patience is often required, along with loosened drags and plenty of spare rigs. The loose drag will save you a broken or dragged-to-sea rod, should a trophy sized bass engulf your offering while your rod is spike-held, and the spare rigs may be needed if bluefish are prevalent. Rigging some hooks with wire leaders will do the job should the choppers come on the scene.

Lures are another story, and the guy using them claims he hasn't the patience to wait with bait, but he actually has to have more patience than his meat-using counterpart, whether he realizes it or not. It's easy to say, "Use this during the day and that at night"—but it's a little more complicated than that, believe me. Color is important day or night, and although there are times that anything goes, the right color at the right time is imperative. Unlike that Florida sea trout specialist who said, "Give me any color plug, as long as it's yellow!" I won't go that far, although I will say that light colors seem to work best during daylight and dark colors at night. Of course, there is always going to be some guy that will do better at some time doing just the opposite!

As a rule though, for daytime use, a white popping plug or yellow darter seems to produce best, with chrome-colored versions running a dead-heat second. At dusk, before full dark, or in that magic hour between false dawn and full light, I lean towards subtly shaded plugs—the light greens, light blues, etc. At night I switch to black, dark green, dark blue, or purple. Like I said, there is always going to be an exception to the rule, but most of the time it works as I said: light in light and dark in dark.

The important thing to remember is that proper presentation is extremely critical to successful lure fishing. A popping plug should do exactly that—pop! Usually cast to visible fish, the plug should imitate a feeding baitfish. After you've completed your cast, let the plug rest for a moment, then take up slack line and twitch the rod sharply, causing the scooped out face of the plug to dig into the water, creating a loud gurgle or pop and

throwing up a shower of spray. A darter fished in the same manner will zigzag on the surface, resembling a frightened baitfish. Swimming plugs need no added action, thanks to the ingenious plate fixed under the nose. Here it's simply a matter of retrieving line, which will cause the plug to swim along, looking remarkably like a real live baitfish. Your productive strata with swimmers is not limited to the surface, as it is with poppers and darters, because you can get swimmers that run at various depths, and can even get swimmers with additional allure if you select the jointed variety.

Now you see where the additional patience enters the picture. Not only must you have several varieties of plugs, but several sizes of each variety as well as several colors of each, to better "match the hatch" of prevailing baitfish. Fairly fast retrieves normally work best during daylight, whereas at night the word is S-L-O-W. Here again, there may be times that prescribed techniques fail, and you will be forced to improvise. Like everything else, if there was no challenge in fishing, it would lose most of the appeal it holds for most of us, and I, for one, would find it boring.

A fishing lure, any lure, is meant to simulate natural bait, and the more natural it appears, the better chance you stand of catching fish with it. In the fall, game fish feed on whatever bait predominates a given area at any given time. Even the current crop of game fish fry, snappers and weakfish, provide fall dinners at times. Determining which bait is in residence is half the battle; using lures that simulate that bait where it gathers, can help you achieve the victory.

You have a large variety of styles of metal lures from which to choose: regular, eight-faceted diamond jigs or those slim, four-faceted "squidding" jigs; broad, flat, hammered-finish stainless jigs, or the new S-shaped cylindrical models we know as sand eels. Natural sand eels are so-called because they are long and slim, and actually burrow into the sand to escape predators. If you can make a long, slim jig repeat this process, you might succeed in fooling a lot of bass, blues, or weakfish. This effect can be achieved by jigging your rod on the retrieve, raising and lowering it in long sweeps as you continue retrieving.

Any jig fished over rocks will hang up unless you retrieve it fast enough to keep it clear of the bottom, limiting its productive strata to upper levels. Here the flat, hammered jig reigns supreme, as it easily planes upwards as you retrieve, minimizing odds of hang-ups. Don't hesitate to use gold-plated jigs either; if weakfish fry are the bait being sought, those golden beauties will really fool a lot of fish.

Jigs don't have to be fished fast to be effective, although you can never reel fast enough to take any lure away from any fish that really wants it. Slow retrieves will put you down deep, so taking care that you don't get stuck, definitely fish jigs slowly whenever you can, going too far as to even drag bottom if it is fairly obstruction free. As the water really cools, don't be surprised if you catch cod or whiting, especially towards evening, as the metallic gleam of the jig resembles natural baitfish reflecting light from its meridian stripe.

The fall bait fisherman can often come home with a mixed bag, including game fish, although he is basically fishing for bottom species. Blackfish come in to rocky beaches, often feeding above the low water mark as they root for crabs, clams, and other shellfish. Rocky, gravel-strewn points produce well at this time, and traditional blackfish baits on Virginia hooks gets the job done. Aside from green crabs or fiddler crabs, try using any hermit crabs you can scrounge up as this is a dynamite blackfish bait in the fall.

These same points hold goodly supplies of winter flounder, if you fish away from the rocky areas and more towards the beaches, seaworms or cut clams on small hooks will bring you those flatties as well as any porgies or scup that may be there also. Unknown to many fishermen, tiny shrimp do a bang-up job at this time also, if you can seine your own grass shrimp, or can purchase untreated sand shrimp from the market. Frozen, canned, or treated shrimp, such as those found at supermarkets, will not work at all, so save your money or spend it on seaworms instead.

Fish some place with a little height, a bridge, pier or jetty and spend a few moments looking into the water. You really should wear Polaroid glasses whenever you go fishing; they eliminate reflected surface glare and permit you to actually see several feet below—a boon for spotting baitfish, if nothing else. If you spot 'em you can catch 'em, or simulate their size and shape with lures, thus bettering your chances of catching game fish.

An ideal bait-catching rig can be made quite simply from material ready at hand, and probably won't cost you a cent. Take four feet of fifteen pound test mono, and tie one end to a barrel swivel, via an improved clinch knot. Using the same knot, tie the opposite end of the leader to a snap, to accommodate a small diamond jig. Between the swivel and the snap, make three dropper loops, spaced equi-distantly apart. On each dropper, place a small, gold, long-shanked hook (#8 Aberdeen is good).

Take any pie plate of the foil type that store bought sweet goods come in, and cut out a strip measuring one inch by two inches, then cut that into four pieces, each measuring ½'' by 1''. Wrap one piece lengthwise around the shank of each hook, rolling the foil between thumb and forefinger to form a tube. That foil will not rust or tarnish, and is of a gauge heavy enough to retain any shape folded into it, and will make a perfect mini-tube lure. (See L.I.F., May 18, 1978.)

Many fish feed on small baitfish, and this tiny jig rig will resemble a few small baitfish being pursued by a slightly larger predator (the diamond jig). This same principle extends into larger mackerel "trees" and umbrella rigs and can rack up outstanding catches at times. Jig this mini-rig at upper levels for herring, tinker mackerel, or anchovies—all dynamite live baits for a host of game fish. Bounced off the bottom, especially in cooler water, you may come up with spike whiting, puppy cod, or harbor pollack.

Don't hesitate to fish bait on the bottom from high vantage points either. The water beneath bridges and off the tips of jetties is often fairly deep, and can host many bottom feeders as well as lots of game fish, any of which can be susceptible to nice, fat, juicy seaworms. Here you may come up with a different species at any time, and double-headers of two different species at once are not uncommon.

Don't be surprised if a striper or bluefish takes a liking to those worms, and gives you fits trying to land it. Enjoy it when it happens, and chalk it up to another bonus to be harvested on Long Island Sound, come autumn and your western roundup.

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OFFSHORE SMORGASBORD

by Martin and Janet Garrell

To South Shore anglers on the East End of Long Island, the crisp days of September and October mean many things. There are doormat fluke wandering through the inlets, blackfish moving inshore along the jetties, and hordes of alligator bluefish moving along the coast. All in all, there is **no** time of year like the autumn! Still, early fall for us means something quite different—namely, an offshore trip to stock the freezer with delicacies for the months ahead.

In deep water, but well within sight of the beaches that lie between Shinnecock Inlet and Montauk are wrecks and chunks of debris that serve as fall gathering points. They harbor an amazing mix of species, summer holdovers, fall migrants, and even a few early winter arrivals. These fish hotels include everything from small sunken boats (tough to locate without accurate Loran ranges, a good feel for markers on the shore, and accurate recorders) to large sprawling structures, such as sunken pieces of construction.

Find one of these spots, anchor up-tide or up-wind so that the boat slips back over it, and you have some of the finest fishing imaginable. In September and October, residents on the wrecks include broad-beamed sea porgies, husky blackfish, and, finally the finest eating of all—iridescent sea bass. The porgies may run two to three pounds, the blacks to eight or better, and the bass to about four. Although this has the sound of "fat city" or easy fishing (and it can be), the rub is finding the wrecks.

A top-notch skipper will never divulge his best areas, of course, and with good reason! Unlike certain productive pieces of open bottom or large wrecks, these South Shore spots are small, often as small or even smaller than the boats that fish over them. Consequently, they don't hold great numbers of fish. Put a lot of pressure on them by fishing them daily with a large number of boats, and their remaining occupants become more wary than subway riders in the Big Apple. Fishing results drop off accordingly. Fortunately, there are boats and skippers who will take an occasional group of bottom fishing fanatics out to these spots.

One such man is Clark Bellows, who runs the **Captain Clark II** from a marina on Newtown Road off the Shinnecock Canal in Hampton Bays.

Double-headers of sea bass and porgies not uncommon during the fall.

Usually, Clark, his wife Ann, and his son, Clark Jr., head their party boat in a northerly direction and spend the summer and fall on Peconic Bay weakfish, porgies, and blackfish—good, reliable fishing, and fishing which is generally easy on tender constitutions subject to seasickness. However, every few weeks in the late summer and fall, Bellows takes an ocean trip to please die-hards like ourselves, and probably to please his wife, too. Like most chefs, Ann Bellows is a person who puts sea bass at the very top of the dining room menu.

Clark Bellows comes from a South-old family that has served fishermen on the Peconics for over seventy years. In fact, Clark Bellows, Jr., who takes the bay trip for the family several days each week, represents the fourth generation of Bellows in the fishing trade. As Clark Sr. explains, "Whenever we run our boat offshore...we let our customers know; that's especially important because we advertise our bay fishing, and they're set up for it. We don't Shanghai them into going offshore."

Having called on the Mondays before and having checked again after hearing the weather forecast on Thursdays, we were neither Shanghaied nor surprised on our two Saturday trips offshore last season. Both of them were productive.

Ordinarily, most fishing articles will inject a story or two with a battling fish. Really, that's hard for us to do, because fast currents in water up to ninety feet deep call for six to ten ounces of lead and standard twenty pound class tackle to be used on fish that average only a few pounds in weight. On the second trip of the season, however, we took a friend who insisted on fishing a fast-tapered spinning rod with ten pound test line. He had a grand tussle, putting the boots to a strong, four-and-a-half pound sea bass, so maybe it is

possible to match these fish against suitable tackle. If you can find a conventional or spinning rig in the twelve pound class that can heft a half pound of lead and still feel the nips on the bait, you've probably got the perfect outfit. Neither the sea bass nor the porgies will embarrass an angler with such a rig, although a truly big blackfish might blow him or her away on most wrecks, unless he or she gained the first few feet of line in a real hurry!

Terminal rigs are simple hi-los with short-snelled (twelve inch) hooks in sizes 2 to 2/0, separated by approximately twenty-four inches. Clam or squid is the normal bait for porgies and sea bass, but Bellows carries green crabs on most days and sells them at a nominal fee to blackfish specialists. Porgy fans generally take their own seaworms aboard. There are a number of tips worth remembering about these rigs and baits. First, it's not a good idea to mix hard and soft baits. If you guess that a blackfish has begun to peck a green crab bait, but, in actuality, you've got a porgy nibbling at a clam belly, you hesitate before striking—and miss by a mile. In the reverse situation with the cautious blackfish feeding on crab, you might guess porgy on clam, strike at once—and miss again! So if it's tautog you want, you fish crab baits and only crab baits. A second tip is to keep the central strand of leader material relatively stiff (thirty to forty pound); even if you're fishing lighter line, you can still attach the section that holds the snells and sinkers with a tiny swivel. Thin strands twist like mad in the deep, strong tides around the wrecks. Also, most loop knots have such poor breaking strength that they are unsuitable for lines testing twenty pounds and under. One final tip is to remove the low hook from the double rig when the bottom gets rough or the wrecks become tackle-eaters.

One particular wreck that both Clark Bellows and the sea bass love is just that. You can always tell the most productive section of the wreck by listening to deck noise. The part of the boat over the hotspot exhibits plenty of bent rods and is full of elated shouts mixed with curses. Thirty per cent of the bent rods fight big fish, while the remainder help anchor the party boat to the wreck.

Naturally, this kind of fishing entails the loss of terminal tackle. With six or eight hangers per day per person, the wise fisherman will bring plenty of spare rigs aboard.

One of the fascinating things about offshore trips is the chance to tie into a "mystery" fish. During the early fall, a strip bait may entice a doormat fluke from a section of wreck, while a clam may account for a pool winning cod on one of the last trips of the season. Such events don't happen all that often, but they occur just frequently enough to give all anglers pause when rods first go into full arc and lines begin to peel against stiffly set drags.

On trips off the South Shore, our principal aim, even above and beyond sport, is to put a variety of the best eating fish into the refrigerator and freezer. As a result, we're especially careful to pack a chest of ice with us for fish storage and to slip one of the boat's nets under every fish we really want to put in that box. It's amazing how many lightly hooked meals can fall back into the water in the course of a day's fishing!

After a good day on the "Captain Clark II," we found we always had some porgy and blackfish fillets to pass on to friends, but somehow we made so much room in our personal freezer for sea bass that we never had enough fish for these folks. There were always friends who kept asking, though, and one Saturday, when we brought in a bass just over four pounds, we gave two of them a call with invitations to a Sunday dinner. We prepared the baked fish whole over a bed of onions and white wine, dotted with butter and basted frequently. Afterwards, we seasoned the pan juices and reduced them to a sauce. Ordinarily, on such a fish, we figure one-half pound per person, and we get leftovers for casseroles and salads. Not with that bass. There wasn't a morsel of flesh left on the entire skeleton! No question about it: for gourmet dining, the South Shore, offshore trips are simply unbeatable.

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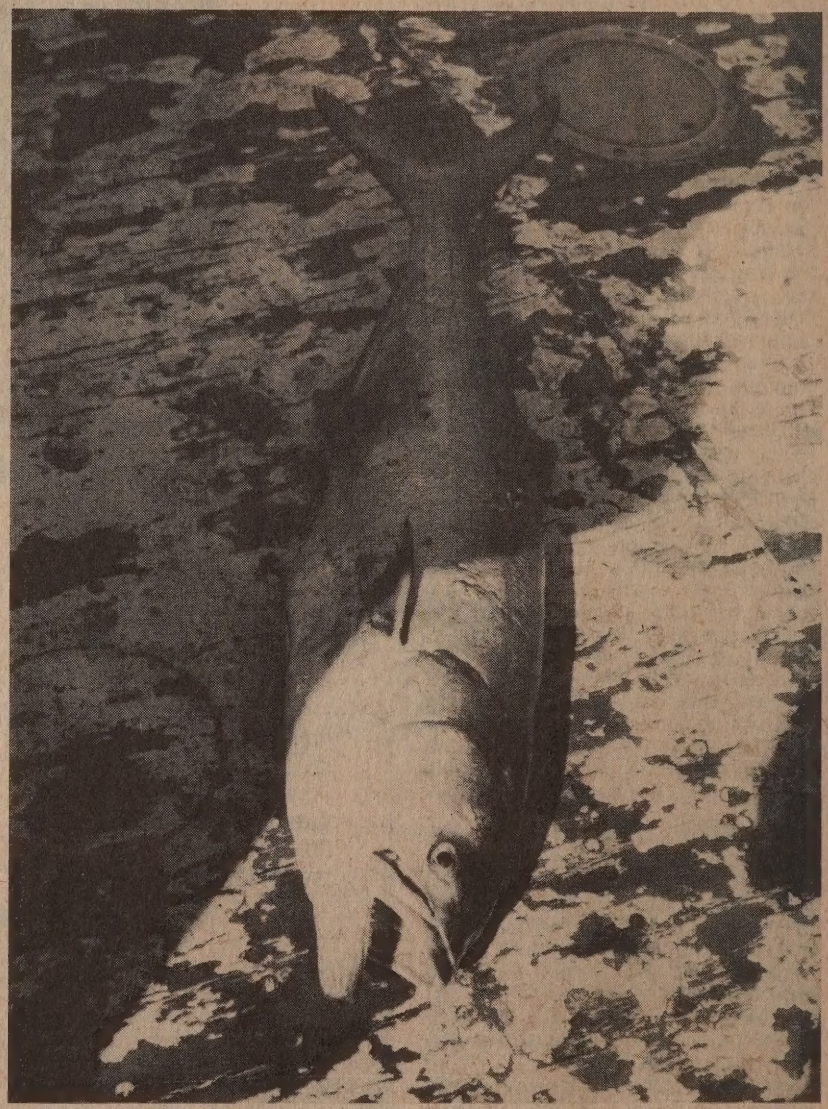
EASTERN & WESTERN BLUES

by Gerald Hahn

Many people believe that bluefish arrive in Long Island as one vast, happy family. Not me. I think there are two kinds of bluefish: easterners and westerners. Eastern blues head to places like Block Island, Fisher's Island, the Race, Plum Gut, and Montauk; whereas western blues settle down (more or less) in the New York Bight, the Atlantic off Fire Island, and most of Long Island Sound. Now, a marine biologist would probably refute this and say I'm full of water. But then, why do eastern blues behave so differently from western ones? Try catching a western blue with a Montauk rig, and you will probably catch nothing. On the other hand, try hooking an easterner with a western rig and you will catch less than nothing—you will probably lose your rig.

Eastern blues like big meals; no hors d'oeuvres or tidbits for them. Put a whole bunker or herring about a foot long on a rigged platter of chains, heavy sinkers, big shiny hooks and hardware, and watch them tear into it. Your presentation need not be fancy either, as long as the baitfish is whole and straight. Western blues would hardly look at such a gross offering. They prefer delicacies: dainty butterfish, anchovies, sand eels, or spearing.

Although tackle is similar on most party boats—east or west—six or seven foot boat rods with conventional reels like the Penn Long Beach, Jigmaster, or the Garcia 624, the weight of the line varies. In the west end, you are likely to find most anglers using thirty to forty pound test, while out east, forty to fifty pound test is standard fare. Some people even add a shocker of eighty pound test just to make sure. But these are relatively small differences when compared to the business end of the tackle: the rig.



Catching a blue this size requires different methods and rigs in eastern and western Long Island.

In eastern Long Island, a basic bluefish rig consists of an inline trolling sinker or drail weighing ten or twelve ounces, an eight inch length of chain (half-inch links or window sash chain), some connecting hardware and hooks. The drail is connected to the main line (or shocker) with a regular clinch knot (improved clinch knots do not work well with heavy lines) and to the chain at the other end with either a #56 Duo-Lock snap or an S-connector. On some rigs, a single 10/0 O'Shaughnessy hook is all that is used. If the hook is an open-eye type, it is attached directly to the last chain link; if not, an S-connector, split ring, or snap is used instead. With this type of rig, the hook is impaled through the mouth and out the gills or through the eyes of the baitfish, and then embedded in the caudal peduncle just ahead of the tail. Because the bait may curl up with this rig, some eastern boats use an extra Duo-Lock snap mounted on the same eye of the drail as is the chain. The snap is opened, forced through the baitfish's eyes, and then closed. This keeps the head secure and the baitfish straight. Perhaps the best variation of the chain 'n drail, however, consists of two hooks: a 10/0 O'Shaughnessy as before and an 8/0 connected near the top of the chain with a split ring. The top hook is forced through the lower jaw and out the top of the bait's head, and the bottom hook is used, as described.

West end rigs, on the other hand,

dispense with gaudy chains and many times, with the sinker as well. At best, one or two small rubber core sinkers or a couple of split shots are put on the main line instead. A flexible wire leader from six to twenty-four inches, with a snap on one end and a barrel swivel on the other, replaces the eastern chain. Hooks are usually smaller, as well—no larger than 6/0. The best rig here is prepared with a coffee-colored hook and a four inch stiff brown wire. Haywire twists connect the hook to one end of the wire and a black barrel swivel to the other end. These rigs are stronger and more reliable than those made with flexible wire and also provide low visibility. Perhaps the greatest difference between eastern and western rigs is evident here. In the west, "invisible" rigs are popular, whereas in the east anglers polish their sinkers for extra flash and replace rusty chains with bright new ones.

Most eastern bluefishing from open boats is bottom fishing. The bait is lowered to depths of about one hundred feet, and once the bump is felt, the reel is engaged and the handle turned about seven revolutions. No matter whether the boat is anchored or set adrift, most hits will occur within a relatively small zone just off the bottom, and getting the bait down quickly—and keeping it there—is the key to success. In the west, however, bluefish are taken at many different levels—sometimes right on the surface. Consequently, some exploration is necessary until the fish are located at the right depth. Once this is determined, the line can be marked to reach the same level again. Sometimes, bluefish are particularly wary and boat shy, and floating rigs are used in the east, as well as in the west. Here, the sinker is eliminated, and wire or very heavy leader is used instead. As the boat begins to drift, two to three hundred feet of line is payed out, and the bait is given some action by pumping the rod, reeling in a few turns, and dropping it back.

Developing a feel for catching bluefish requires concentration and practice, no matter whether you fish the west end or the east. Some blues let you know immediately by smashing the bait with a jolt, and with these, you cannot set a hook fast enough. Other fish, however, react slowly, and the fisherman should pause before striking them.

Catching bluefish from a party boat is more difficult than from a small boat or charter, although the former attract the most fish because there are more lines in the water. On small boats, only a handful of anglers are fishing at once, and tangles are less likely to occur than from the decks of an open boat with forty to sixty people aboard. Another small boat advantage is elevation; i. e., the angler's distance from sea level. On small boats, the fisherman is only a few feet from the water and can control a blue—especially a large one—at the most critical point near the end of a bout. The less line between fish and angler, the better. On party boats, however, the fisherman is working from an awkwardly high position, and it is difficult to control a rampaging bluefish tearing in every direction. As a result, most fish are lost at the tail end of the fight, a most frustrating experience for the angler who has spent so much time battling a blue.

Nonetheless, there are a few things worth learning if you want to bring a fish to gaff from an eastern or western open boat. First, make sure the drag is set below the breaking point of the line. If it is set too tight, the fish will either throw the hook or break the line. If it is too loose, the fish may strip all the line from your reel. Do not tamper with the drag once it is set properly. Next, always point the rod straight out or down, and not up. You are too high above the fish to begin with—don't make matters worse. In the event that a fish makes a run toward you, the lowered rod can be lifted to keep the line taut while you speed up the retrieve. Should the bluefish decide to move sideways (it usually does), duck under or pass behind your neighbor to avoid a tangle, one of the major reasons for breakoffs at the last moment. Always move with the fish until you have it under control. Finally, once the fish is brought to the surface, keep its head in the water and follow the gaffer's instructions. Sometimes a bluefish will jump like a tarpon, and this can be the most thrilling sport of all—if you do not lose it. Point the rod tip straight down, parallel to the side of the boat; lean over the rail if necessary and continue reeling. This is similar to "bowing," a method saltwater fly rodders use when confronted with leaping fish: it keeps the fish's head in the water, where it cannot throw a hook.

On western boats, diamond jigging for blues is practiced more often than on eastern boats. Here, too, jigs are likely to range from two ounce ones in the west to twelve ounces in the east. A high speed reel is best for this kind of fishing in either area, and the lure should be tied directly to the main line or shocker with a regular clinch knot, a Palomar knot, or an end loop. In the east, most of the hits are near the bottom and the lure must be worked rapidly back and forth, within ten revolutions of the handle. In the west, anglers may jig for blues all the way to the top. Either way, nothing is comparable to catching bluefish on artificials. Blues are inevitably more aggressive when chasing lures, and the fishing is fast—no time wasted baiting up.

Once bluefish arrive in full force and settle down (if that term can be applied to this species), you can fish for them, day and night, from summer through the fall on countless party boats. All you have to decide is whether you want to catch easterners or westerners.

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BLUES

Capt Mike of the charterboat **Montauk** called to say that the Cartwright bluefishing has been great. These are big blues which are hitting both diamond jigs of the large variety and also hitting herring baits.

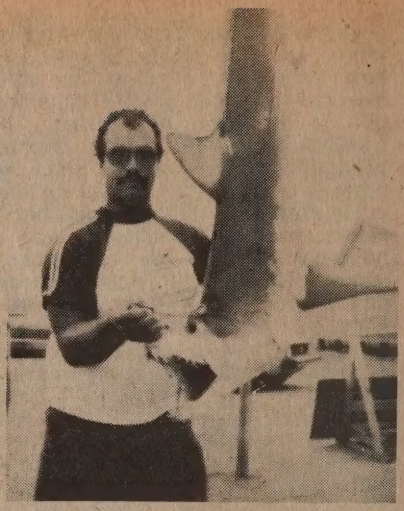
Capt Bud Dorman of the **Viking Skipper II** lets us know that the porgies are really chewing for his customers. Sunday for instance, 22 anglers had better than 90 fish apiece. Twelve of these anglers had better than 100 porgies each. Two out of these twelve had over 200 pounds of porgies a man. Phil Westbrook of Brooklyn led the way with 218 lbs. of porgies which he singlehandedly caught. Seventy-five percent of the fish were jumbos. Under the Lighthouse was the scene of the action.

Lou Wejsa, Don Frazer, John Franklin, and Phil Maguire with fluke and weaks taken on Salty Dogs at Shagwong and Great Eastern. Photo courtesy of "Gone Fishing Marina."

Bags and bags of porgies are being caught. One youngster scored with 75 all by himself.

West Lake Fishing Lodge reports that Chris Miller had a 4 lb. fluke out of Lake Montauk on clam and also had a good catch of sea bass and flounder. The bluefishing has been excellent and they are still inhabiting Shagwong. Some bonito and weaks are still around. Striped bass are being taken in the early morning hours on bucktails. Super bluefishing at Cartwright, fish up to 15 lbs. on herring. The Elaine had 25 blues up to 18 lbs. The Wee Mac had a swordfish on for 3 hours Saturday, but dropped it. On Sunday the boat had several big blue sharks.

Capt Joe of the charterboat **My Mate** reports that Saturday's charter for Jim Russo and party trolled and jigged a solid catch of big bluefish. Sunday's party for Ken Krebs and group did not do quite as well, but still had bluefish. On Saturday Capt Don Andrews ran the boat.



This 95 lb. mako, along with 8 blue sharks from 200 to 300 lbs., was taken by Sal Ciulla aboard the charter boat "Adios."

Charterboat **Julie III** called to say that Saturday's charter for Carmello Ianno boated 700 lbs. of blues at Cartwright, largest 20 lbs. 4 ozs. Sunday's charter led by Little Ernie had 30 blues along with 300 lbs. of porgies and 1 weakfish at the Point.

Captain Phil Lewis of the **Adios** reports that a few bass have been taken this week. Ernie Schultz and Herman Jarck had four nice bass, but erratic fishing. Paul Hoffman had over 50 gorilla bluefish at Cartwright. Bluefishing still good; bass fishing also still good when you find the right spots and stay there.

Captain Gene Kelly of the charter boat **Hustler** called to say that a few bass have been showing at the Point. Gene trolled four stripers in the 20-30 lb. range on Thursday and had another single fish on Saturday. Wire line and bucktails did the trick. The skipper has been mixing bass trolling with catching blues in the 6-8 lb. class at the Sub Buoy.

A load of blues and weaks taken on Ava Jigs by John, Charlie, "Flapjaw," and Walter aboard the Montauk charter boat "Vivienne."

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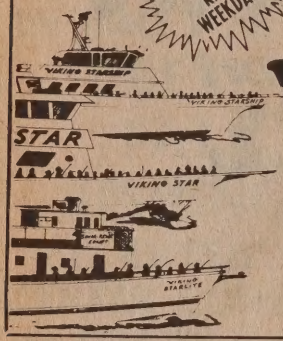

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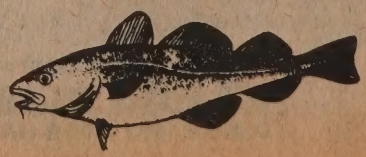

Barry, Noah, and Jason with 137 blues from 7-14 lbs. taken on diamond jigs south of Block Island aboard the "Windy."

SOUTH FORK

★ BEST BET ★

PORGIES

SHINNECOCK

The **Capt Clark II** tells of good blackfishing Monday and Tuesday. Andy Peda of Hampton Bays had a solid catch including the pool fish which hit 8 lbs. Action was fair on Wednesday. Things picked up Thursday and Friday on big blackfish. Saturday saw Sal Vecchio of Queens with 21 blacks and a 7 lb. pool winner. Capt Clark Bellows feels blackfishing is yet to hit it's peak as the water temperature starts to go down. Green crabs are the best bait at present and are supplied by the boat.

Recently returned from his honeymoon, Thom at **Speck's Bait and Tackle** reported a catch of over 100 flounder for Karl Berger and Helen Zollo. The pair took the fish on worms near Heddy Creek in Shinnecock Bay. Good fishing in the Bay for flatties. Also at the Nationals and the Basket area. Blackfish averaging 1 to 1½ lbs., with some to 4 lbs. in fairly good supply around Peconic Bay. Green crabs account for most of these fish. Porgy fishing remains good in the Peconics, although a lot of anglers are starting to concentrate on the blacks and flounder.

MORICHES BAY

Skidmore's Fishing Station reports that flounder fishing is in full swing. Best area is buoys 44 and 54. Al DeMartino and son Chris boated 106 flounder near buoy 44 on blood worms and red dyed clam Saturday. John and Ray Glass accounted for 94 flatties, same bait, same area, on Sunday. Blue claw crabs are best between buoys 43 and 44 with best around buoy 50 and 54 on traps and rings.

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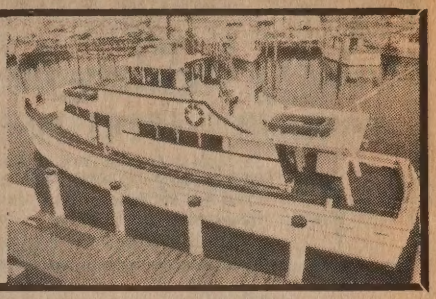

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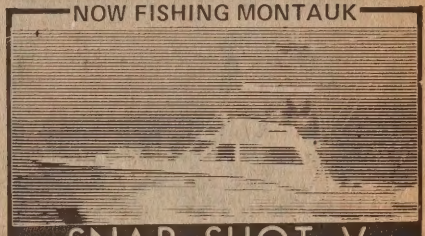

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Boatmen really doing a job on the flounder, according to Bill at **East Moriches Bait and Tackle**. Hottest spot seems to be Seatuck Cove, although anglers also do well in the vicinity of Buoy 42 where sea bass are mixed with the flatties. Worms and dyed clams work best on the flounder, while worms and squid strips have been taking the sea bass. Snappers still around the bay, as are many good sized blue claw crabs. Bill added that things have been very quiet on the north shore scene and it appears this fishing is on the wane.

GREAT SOUTH BAY
★ BEST BET ★
MIXED BAG

MASTIC BEACH

Stiriz's Fishing Station reports that flounder action is fantastic with flatties all over the place from Cranberry Point to Buoy 12, fish up to 1½ lbs. Good numbers are being caught also. Rental boats are returning with 80 to 90 fish no big problem. Gus and Ann Pigeon had 86 flounders Saturday fishing the buoy 13 area with worm and clam on both running tides. Al and Debbie Burio had 78 flounder, 26 sea bass, 3 blacks and 25 snappers in the buoy 17 area. Lots of sea bass and snappers around. Some schoolie bass at the bridge on worms or bucktails tipped with pork rind fished on the bottom. Lots of blue claw crabs from buoy 17 to the bridge on rings and in traps.

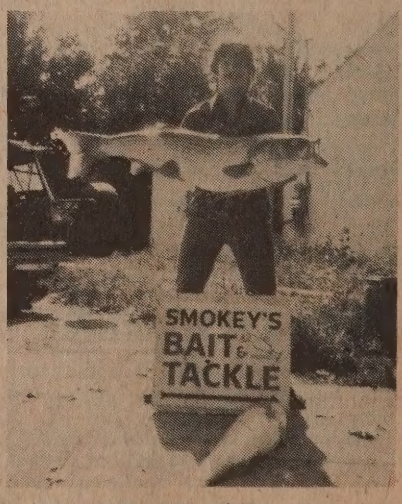
OAKDALE

Dave at **J&R Sport Center** told of a good mixed bag, which included weaks, sea bass and porgies at buoy 5. Worms and squid, along with clam chum resulting in the best scores. Still plenty of big crabs around, as well as some foot long snappers at the West Sayville dock. Bass being taken on live eels at the Inlet by those putting in the time.

BAY SHORE

Linda at **Smokey's Bait and Tackle** checked in a 5 lb. trigger fish for Tom Smith over the weekend. This large southern visitor took a green crab at the Kismet Reef. Boatmen doing well with blackfish up to 10 lbs. on fiddlers and green crabs on the same Kismet Reef, as well as on the numerous bay wrecks. Sea bass and blowfish taking squid strips at buoy 8 while bigger sea bass are being taken in good numbers on the outside reef. Blues in the 3-10 lb. class being jigged and trolled in Fire Island Inlet. Bigger choppers being taken in 50' of water south of Ocean Beach. Good sized crabs still in good supply at the local docks.

The **Casey Lee** reports blackfishing has been good on the weekend with Saturday's trip best. Bay wrecks and reefs have been producing all blackfish for the boat from the Inlet to West Channel. Fish are running 1 to 3 lbs.



Charlie Baculik of Huntington with bass of 41 and 20 lbs. taken at Democrat Pt. on sandworms. Fish were checked in at Smokey's Bait and Tackle in Bay Shore.

Pool fish usually run 4 to 6 lbs. Fiddler crabs have been working best, then clam. The change of tide has been the most productive period. Capt Neil says the boat will be sailing Monday, October 13th, Columbus Day.

CAPTREE

Captain Rod Westlin of the open boat **Captain Rod** who switched over to flounder this past weekend said that the flatties have made a very good showing at this point in the season. The best action has been concentrated in the State Channel where worms have been taking lots of medium sized fish.

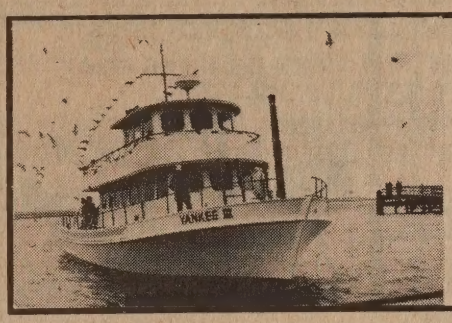
Charterboat **Lady Ann** called to say that the night bluefishing at the Patchogue grounds has been good on the trips that they made this week. Fish were hitting bait and were averaging 5 to 8 lbs., going up to 15 lbs. Friday night's trip was decidedly better than Saturday night's trip. The daytime bottom trips for porgies, sea bass and blacks on the ocean reef Friday and Sunday, resulted in good catches of porgies and sea bass with a few snowshoe flounder and blues mixed in. Fares are catching an excellent fall mixed bag. Best bottom fishing is being done on mussel bottom from the Lighthouse to the wreck buoy on clam, fiddlers and squidheads.

The **Capt Scotty** reports very good catches of bluefish at the Patchogue grounds and on various wrecks. Saturday was excellent with catches of 25 to 40 bluefish a man in just a single 1½ hr. drift. Two to 6 pounders were jigged along with a few 12 to 15 pounders. One day during the week it was all 12 to 15 lb. monsters. Friday night was tough due to conditions, but Saturday night was excellent again. Fifteen to 30 fish per man was the average if those men stayed at the rail. The skipper says to come on down and bag up. Super fall action has arrived.

The charterboat **Leo D** reports Sunday's bottom fishing trip in the bay off Saltaire resulted in a good catch consisting mainly of sea bass.

Capt Charlie Kennedy of the open boat **Capt Bob Joseph** reported very good catches on the weekend with bluefish. Super fishing has returned said the skipper as evidenced by 15 fares on Saturday taking 300 blues in the 3 to 6 lb. range. Saturday night another approximately 300 blues came over the rail, same size. This was all at the Patchogue grounds. Fish are being jigged days while nighttime is seeing fish hitting jigs and bait. On Sunday 12 fares had an umbelieveable initial drift with over 150 blues caught on that first drift. The Patchogue banks will work, followed by two more drifts at the Oregon wreck. At the Oregon they had over 100 more gorrillas from 12 to 17 lbs. Robert Pace of Lake Ronkonkoma was high hook with 43 choppers. His 10 largest fish totaled 136

★CAPTREE★



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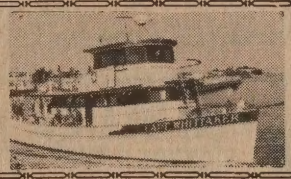

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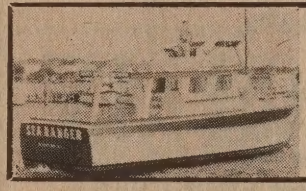

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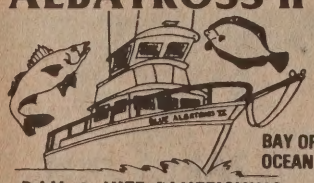
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lbs. The horn was tooted for home at 12:30 p.m. with everyone arm weary. So there are lots of fish around and many of them area tackle busters.

Capt Gordon Roman of the **Captree Queen II** reports that the blues have been good to super all week long. Saturday night's trip was the best with 17 fares accounting for over 450 blues ranging from 4 to 16 lbs. The fall bluefish blitz has started at Patchogue. It's diamond jigs days and bait at night. Sizes vary from day to day. Everyday there is a showing of 10 to 15 lb. fish. The boat will be sailing night trips through October 14th and possibly the following weekend also, depending on weather.

BABYLON

Ralph at **Augie's Bait and Tackle** said that despite Saturday's rough seas, the Babylon Tuna Club boat Blue Water managed to get a little fishing time in at the Canyon and put away a 110 lb. bigeye. Nearer the Inlet in the vicinity of the weather station there was some decent action with bluefin tuna in the 30 lb. class. One boat had 12 of the fish on Sunday. Also on Sunday, big blues and weaks were found in 60' of water south of Davis Park. Boatmen used jigs to take lots of fish during the late afternoon. Good blackfish and sea bass action on the reefs and bay wrecks on fiddlers and green crabs. While the sea bass have been taken on squid strips and worms. Bass being taken after dark on eels in Fire Island Inlet. Some boatmen putting away 3 to 5 stripers from 20 lbs. on up.

SOUTH SHORE BAYS
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

MASSAPEQUA

George Buzzetta, nationally famous accountant bagged a 3 lb. 10 oz. sea bass fishing the Wantagh bridges with fiddlers on Sunday. O.K. George!

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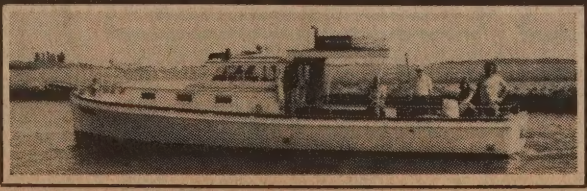

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SEAFORD

Capt Eddie's Fishing Station tells us that the flounders are starting at Massapequa Cove and across from the Jone's Beach Piers. They're from ½ to ¾ lb. and there are lots of short fish mixed in. Both tides are producing with worm, clam and chum a big factor. Sea bass at Massapequa Cove and the Wantagh bridges on worm, clam and squid. An assortment of blackfish, blowfish and porgies, same area, same bait.

Capt Brian of the open boat **Chinco** reports that on Sunday his fares had from 13 to 16 flounders a man. Larry Cooper of Massapequa was high hook with 21 flounder. The pool fish, 2 lb. flattie, was brought up by "Big Len". Generally fish were running 1 to 1¾ lbs. Those were the keepers. There were lots of midgets that were returned. Blood worms were working best on incoming tide on the east side of the 3rd Wantagh.

Jerry Schnurr of **Reliable Gaff** and Sal of Custom Tackle on Jerry's boat The Jermine on Sunday ended up with a box full of blackfish, flounder, sea bass and porgies fishing the Meadowbrook Bridge. The blacks and sea bass were taken on fiddlers. Flounders and porgies were caught in Haunts Creek. One angler that they know of picked a mixed bag of 125 fish at the entrance to Zacs Bay on worm and clam.

From **Pop's Fishing Station**, John Dombrowski reported a good mixed bag of flounder, fluke, sea bass, porgies, eels, snappers, blowfish and crabs entertaining skiff fishermen. Tom Threadwell, Tom Walsh and a Mr. Kilgannon put away 30 flounder up to 1¼ lbs., as well as a mess of sea bass, blowfish and snappers fishing between the 1st and 2nd Wantagh bridges over the weekend. The trio used worms and clams for bait and chummed with both mussels and corn.

Lon Wanser of **Wanser's Bait and Tackle** reported very good flounder fishing at the Four Corners, the 3rd bridge and Zachs Bay. Worms and clam chum work best for the flatties, according to Lon. Blackfishing still strong at the bridges on fiddlers and green crabs, while some porgies and sea bass continue to round out the catches.

BELLMORE

Merrick Tackle says the bottom fishing has been very good this week with lots of fish being caught and increasing in size everyday. Some big blackfish were caught at the Meadowbrook on the weekend. Big blues are being trolled at Cholera in the 11 to 16 lb. range on umbrellas. At West End fishing the area of the Radio Shack, small bass are hitting swimming plugs anywhere from dusk through dawn. Most are shorts. Some weakfish on live snappers in the back.

MERRICK

Nick's Fishing Station reports flounders in the 1 lb. class have been taken this week and weekend mainly at Merrick Point and Broad Creek. Ray Cotty boated 91 flounder Saturday fishing Merrick Point on worms, no chum. Lots of small sea bass around on open bottom and at the bridges.

BALDWIN

Andy at **Arthur Street Fishing Station** tells of flounders, porgies and sea bass being caught over this weekend at buoy 19 in Reynold's Channel and also at the bridges. A few weakfish at the Meadowbrook on flounder rigs tipped with sand worm. Weaks in the 3 to 4 lb. class. Andy wishes to thank you all for your patronage over these past years. He and Marge, his wife of many years, are retiring to the sunny south. The new owners, Jack and Mike, will be taking over the station the 1st of November and will be providing the same top level of service.

WEST END SOUTH SHORE
★ BEST BET ★
MIXED BAG

FREEPORT

Lou Stalker reported from **Lou's Fishing Station** reported that despite Saturday's rough seas there was very good action with big blues at Cholera and also on some of the local wrecks. Some of these fall run choppers ran as large as the high teens. Both jiggers and trollers took fish, with trollers having the edge at Cholera. Lou called the blackfishing at the bridges fair to good, with fiddlers taking most of the fish. Very good flounder fishing in Sloop Channel and Reynold's Channel on worms.

The **Starstream II** tells of big blues, especially around the wrecks which the skipper tries to hit whenever possible. Fish are averaging 10 lbs. with the general run being 8 to 14 lbs. with an occasional 17 lb. animal. The boat has been working the Cholera bank various days during the week along with wrecks. They are also working the angler banks. Capt Richie says that there are plenty of big bluefish around now and more to come shortly as the water cools and the fish start their trek south. An estimated 300 lb. mako hit a diamond jig on one of the day trips and was brought up to the transom but then decided that he had had enough of this game and snapped the line.

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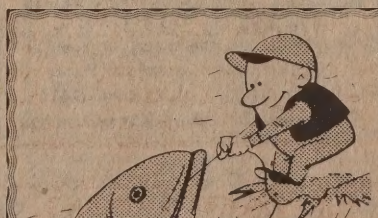
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Wow.

The **Capt Al** reports good bluefishing all week long with a lot of fish being caught and sizes very respectable. On Monday the boat worked Cholera and had mixed size fish. Tuesday and Wednesday was slaughter time. Thursday and Friday there were good catches of mixed fish. This was all at Cholera. On Saturday the boat worked some of the Captain's favorite wrecks and a lot of 16 and 17 lb. choppers came over the rail. Sunday's trip saw fish of 6 and 16 lbs. being caught with fares taking 10 to 12 fish a man. Also taken was the FIRST COD OF THIS SEASON, a 5 pounder. Most of all the action all week was on bait and chum. The numbers of fish were very good and the sizes were the same. Al says now is the time for these jumbo blues. The boat has been fishing Cholera nights. The night fish have been running a little smaller with an occasional lunker.

Capt Joe "Tuna" Long of the charterboat **Nite Owl** has been having super tuna action. Decent size fish and fast action have been the order of the day. The boat is working south of the HA and taking tuna up to 20 lbs. In fact one outsized fish, which was never seen, pulled a brand new rod and reel over the side with a tremendous first lunge. A charter for Ziggy of Atlantic Nursery saw fast continuous action without let-up as soon as they hit the hot area. Two and 3 rods were going off all the time and the skipper says now is the time to get tuna, no bologna.

The **Blue Fin Fleet** reports that weekdays the **BF III** has had good bluefishing, fish up to 18 lbs. on bait and chum at Cholera. On the weekend, the boats fished to the east and jigged blues up to 18 lbs. On Sunday they ran 12 to 18 lbs. with a lot of 15 and 16 pounders mixed in. On Saturday Capt Charlie Adams had a group out bottom fishing and they had over 300 assorted flounder, sea bass and blacks. Slack water at the bridge produced the most fish. A trip to an offshore local wreck produced sea bass up to 3 lbs. along with black

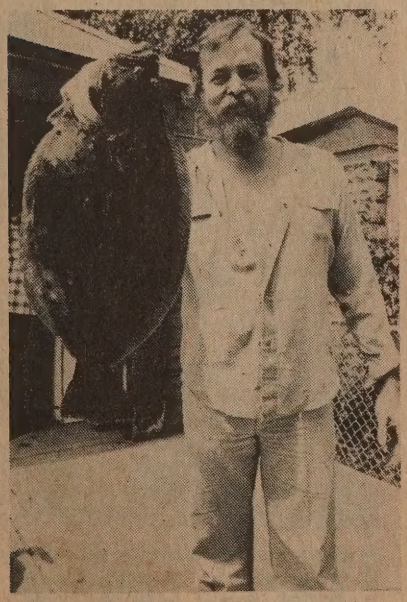
A load of 4-8 lb. blues jigged and trolled S.E. of Jones Inlet by a group from U.S. Customs aboard the Point Lookout charter boat "Marie III."

ISLAND PARK

From **Beckman's Tackle Shop**, Charlie spoke of plenty of flounder from the loop bridge to the Meadowbrook bridge on worms and mussel chum. Charlie said that some boats take 100 to 125 of the flatties with a good fifty percent of them in the keeper category. Excellent blackfishing at the bridges on fiddlers and green crabs and some good bluefish action at the Cholera on Saturday. Trollers took plenty of choppers up to 12 lbs. on umbrella rigs.

LONG BEACH

bernie Haag passed along his report for the **Long Beach Sports Marina** and reported a couple of outstanding blackfish scores made over the weekend. On Saturday, Rich Fritz single-handedly, put away 40 blacks to 4 lbs. at the Atlantic Beach bridge using fiddler crabs. On Sunday, Don and Frank Durando and Pete and Dorothy Billia had 60 tautogs up to 5 lbs. fishing the Gong buoy near the Silver Point jetty. They, too, used fiddlers. Other hotspots for blacks have been the 28th Street wreck and the rock piles along the Atlantic Beach and Long Beach. Scoring well with the flounder were Rudy and Robert Williams and John Herold, all of Jackson Heights, who had a catch of 59 flatties to 2 lbs. They fished the Cedarhurst Yacht Club area with worm bait. Big blues roamed the Jones Inlet area this past week. Ed Reindfleish of Long Beach trolled 24 of the choppers up to 14½ lbs. His best fish is the current leader in the bluefish category of the station contest. Roger Porcella is second with a 13 lbers., while Jim Gentelsco holds



Frank McCann caught this 6½ lb. fluke in East Rockaway Inlet on a squid and killy combo aboard the private boat Overtime. Subscriber photo.

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and porgies.

Capt Mike of the **Capt Lou Fleet** tells us that Dr. Walter Bassus of Queens fished Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for a total of 105 keeper flounder. Saturday saw John DeRosa bag up with 50 keeper flounder. This was all on the full day boat. Action has been good all week with the high hook on the full day boat usually running 40 to 60 fish. The half-day boat, the **Capt Lou IV** has been catching well also and Mike says that it looks like a really good fall season coming up. Plenty of blackfish have been mixed in with the flounders and Haunts.Creek is one of the spots that has been producing the blacks along with the flatties.

POINT LOOKOUT

Capt Dennis of the charterboat **Marie III** called to say that Saturday's charter for the Baitinger Electric, NYC, had a slow pick of small to medium blues fishing NW of Cholera with smelt and chum. A couple of 6 lb. weakfish were mixed in. The pool winner was Bob Clark with an 18½ lb. blue. Sunday's charter fished Cholera and had bluefish to 20 lbs. They lost 3 times more then was caught. The early part of the day was better. The afternoon saw smaller fish taken between the tower and Gilgo in 40' of water.

Morton Mendelsohn of North Merrick with a 7½ lb. fluke he landed in Reynold's Channel. Fishing was done from a skiff rented at Ed's Fishing Station.

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down 3rd place with an 11 lber. In the flounder division, Lou Madacsi and Rudy Williams are tied with fish of 1¾ lbs. Charles Porcell and John Cusack follow them with fish of 1¼ lbs. apiece.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Al at **Reynolds Reef Fishing Station** said that blackfish and flounder highlight the action in the area with lots of good scores being made in the vicinity of all local bridges. Fluke appear to be finished, although an occasional one is still picked up in the inlet area. Blues still providing action at Cholera and both weaks and blues on the Tin Can Grounds for jiggers and trollers. Giant tuna re-appeared again Sunday at the Mud Hole. Al knew of two fish in the 500 to 600 lb. class taken by Jersey boats and he knew that a local private boat, the Rough Rider, fought a fish for three hours. Al did not know the outcome of the battle, however.

Capt Ron Lepper of the charterboat **Kim** says that the big tuna action at the Mud Hole slowed up mid-week. On Saturday a couple of 600 to 800 pounders were landed. The fish have moved about 7 to 8 miles in a southerly direction and have been feeding from the fall out from draggers. Bluefish in the NY Bight have slowed but fish were found in the Klondike area with weaks, albies and bonito mixed in. These fish have moved to the south also. Some 30 to 40 lb. class striped bass have been caught this week off the Atlantic Beach jetty on bait and a few from boats casting bunker into the beach.

Robert Briggs of New York, on a recent trip to Gloucester, Mass., fished Cashes Ledge aboard the "Yankee Capts." and landed this 182 lb. halibut. The catch has been submitted to the IGFA as a new 50 lb. class World's Record.

A few bass have also been taken by those seeking blues and weaks. Stripers are on the move. Don't count them out yet.

JAMAICA BAY

Artie at **Cross Bay Bait and Tackle** said that all of the local bridges have been providing good blackfish action on fiddler crabs, clams and worms. A few flounder showing up in the catches, but it appears the porgies are about finished.

Canarsie Sport and Tackle tells of small bluefish all around the pier area for boat fishermen on jigs, umbrella rigs, worms and chunk bait. Lots of small stripers around mainly at the creek's mouths on bunker chunks, mostly. There are lots of bunker around. Small blues and snappers are also being caught off the Canarsie Pier and some blackfish are being taken around the abutments and on any rocks and mussel beds to be found.

Larry at **Seaman's Bait** reports big bluefish up to 16 lbs. being taken at the radar pier on bunker chunks with some weaks mixed in. Just before dark has been the best, time wise. Fresh bunker is very important. Plenty of porgies between TSS and the Cross Bay and Broad Channel Bridges on any moving water on worm and clam. Snappers in the ¾ lb. variety in all of the creeks and all over the bay.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Capt Walt of the **Flamingo III** called to say that the bluefishing and weakfishing has been good this past week. Catches of from 50 to 100 weakfish per trip along with solid catches of bluefish, have been putting big smiles of the faces of customers aboard the boat. On Friday's trip a 24 lb. striped bass was caught. Walt says that this might be an indication of the beginning of the fall striper run. Another large striper was hooked but dropped on the way up.

Capt Butch on the **Zephyr** is now switching over to sea bass and blackfish. He says he will have fiddlers and green crabs on the bottom in addition to clam. He intends to work some of his pet Jersey Coast hot spots.

STATEN ISLAND

Lenny at **Santos Bait and Tackle** said that trollers have been taking big weaks near the entrance to Great Kills Harbor on umbrella rigs and also single tubes. These fish are also being taken near the 21 can. Some big blues being trolled on Lupo Baby bunker spoons along the Great Kills park shore.

PECONICS & GARDINERS
★ BEST BET ★
PORGIES

GREENPORT

Capt Dave Brennan of the **Peconic Star** called to say that Saturday was a toughy due to the strong winds but Sunday was a porgy slaughter with loads of fish being caught, and big ones at that. Thirteen year old Barry Block of Ronkonkoma and of Angler's Den Fishing Club, and also a L.I.F. subscriber, fishing with his dad totaled 160 porgies on both tides. Barry had most of the fish.

Capt George Porter of the **Brand X** also reports a porgy blitz on Sunday. Details were lacking but fish were not.

Capt Roddie DeLisle of the charterboat **Prowler II** tells us that he's had, with the exception of Saturday, very good bluefishing all week, fishing the Race and Greenhills, with weakfish mixed in. Fish have been up to 15 lbs. on diamond jigs with most fish running 5 to 8 lbs.

AP White Bait & Tackle says good flounder fishing is being had all along the Orient State Park shoreline and Petty's Bight with fish mixed up to biggies on worm and clam, on both tides. Good blackfishing at Orient Point, at the Cable crossing in the Gut, Gull Island, Old Silias and the north side of Plum, on green crab and fiddlers. Fish are mixed with Old Silas producing the biggest. Bluefishing action has been very good everyday

Mary Lynn Geliebter clicked with a 5 lb. fluke while Bernie Guinpy had an 8½ lber. on a recent trip aboard the "Wilhelric" out of Sag Harbor.

POINT LOOKOUT

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on the east side of Gardiner's on diamond jigs. Surfcasters are hitting flounders at Orient and Petty's Bight. They are also into jumbo porgies casting their goodies off the Greenport Beaches and enjoying a bonus of blackfish also.

SOUTHOLD

Ace at **Port of Egypt Fishing Station** says that South Ferry, buoy 14 and 16, have been producing good porgies and at the area at South Ferry should continue to do so, as the draggers cannot get in there. Blacks of mixed sizes are hitting fiddlers and green crabs at Greenlawn and the Brickyard. Flounders are moving west. Fish from 1 to 1½ lbs. are being taken at the Greenport Breakwater and at Pipe's Cove. Don't forget to throw back the midgets. Long Beach and the traps east the Orient Point ferry, have been producing good flounder. This area has produced the largest Ace has weighed in, a 2 plus pounder. In the Sound, flounders at the traps east of the station and larger flounder in Petty's Bight. Porgies are a good number at Petty's Bight in 60' of water. Blacks at the Lighthouse and Mulford Point. A little bass action north of Plum Gut. A 16 lb. blue and a 10 lb. bass were diamond jigged on the weekend in the Gut.

NEW SUFFOLK

Phil at **Capt Marty's Fishing Station** says that the weekend was good with loads of porgies caught of mixed sizes at Nassau Point and buoy 1 in front of the station, on worm and clam. Huge catches on both tides are being made. Twelve inch snappers are running amuck. Also a few 1½ lb. sea bass are being taken. Weakfish are thinning out.

SAG HARBOR

Capt Artie Latch of the **Wilhelric II** reports plenty of porgies, mainly in the Sound. The better the weather, the better the catches, says the skipper. Sunday was the best day of the week with all passengers catching atleast 2 five gallon buckets full of porgies. Artie says they were all jumbos...real monsters. Blackfish continue to improve and the boat is switching over to blackfish as of now. Flounder fishing has become excellent at Orient. Porgies have just about left Gardiner's.

NOYAC

Noyac Marina reports flounders are being caught now. Jane and Ken Burns of Valley Stream fished Noyac Creek Sunday, keeping 24 good sized flounders. This is on blood worms. Flatties are in the Cove and in the channels and are at Jessups near the nets. Sizes will continue to improve as the water cools.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

★ BEST BET ★
BLUES/PORGIES

ROCKY POINT

From his **Rocky Point Fishing Stop**, Stan said he weighed in a 19 lb. bluefish for Bob Loman. This is the biggest blue Stan has seen so far this season and was taken trolling in the vicinity of buoy 9. Blackfishing has been good off of the Shoreham pipeline, along Rocky Point and off of Miller Place with green crabs providing the best action. Stan described the porgy fishing in the area as decewnt, although not as many anglers seem to be concentrating on them lately. Both worms and clams working for these fish.

SELDEN

Ken at **Angler's Den** tells of a giant blue weighed in Monday morning tipping the scales at 16 lbs. for local angler Joe Marti, taken in Port Jeff Harbor on live bunker. Lots of big blues are blitzing the area. The first decent catch of blacks has been by Jim Duffy and Rich Gioa with 12 blackfish up to 7 lb. 8 oz. on green crab at Old Field. Tons of blues off Belle Tierre from 2 to 5 lbs. on diamond jigs. Also tons of porgies all over the place. Big porgies in Port Jeff Harbor with the porgies continuing their diet of clam and worm. Some flounders in Mt. Sinai Harbor and off Cedar Beach for surfcasters. Ken says to watch for the Grand Opening of the **Angler's Den** hunting department or he'll kill you.

MT. SINAI HBR.

Ralph's Fishing Station tells of

Dave Young hefts the 14 lb. bluefish he caught on a whole herring. The chopper was weighed at the Rocky Point Fishing Stop.

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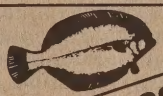

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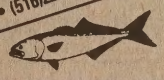

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A party headed by Al Mandell and George Reid accounted for this catch of 51 blues aboard the charter boat Barbara Anne.

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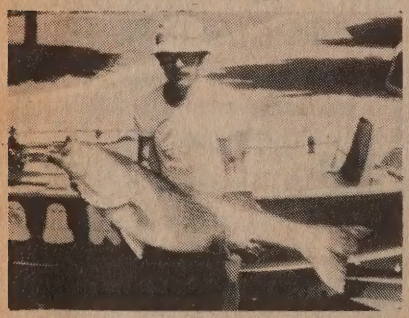
good fishing this week. Blacks have been good up to 11 lbs. at Rocky Point and at the rockpile outside Mt. Sinai Harbor. Mixed porgies are also being caught there. Blacks want fiddlers or green crabs. Plenty of 2 to 6 lb. blues with a few up to 14 lbs. along the beach inside buoy 9 and off the harbor in deep water, and also off the water tower on jigs and umbrellas. Tri-fin sandeel jigs are producing very well. Middle Grounds is producing very big porgies.

PORT JEFFERSON

Caraftis Fishing Station says tons of porgies are there to be caught with best action being Old Field Point and Cranes Neck. Fish are running from sand porgies to mediums on worm and clam. Plenty of blues in the Sound being trolled and diamond jigged, fish 3 to 6 lbs. They are in close in 20' of water along White Beach. Some weakfish mixed in. Giant snappers at the hot water of the Lilco Plant. Plenty of blackfish on green crab at the jetties and Old Field Point in the 3 to 8 lb. class. Also try the pipeline at Shoreham. Crane Neck and Porpoise Channel have produced school bass on trolled umbrellas and on eels or worms floated out.

KINGS PARK

OK Bait & Tackle tells us that the flounder fishing in the river is excellent on worms and red dyed clam. Porgies are a good number at Callahans and Crane's Neck. This is on worm and clam. Blacks are making a showing on fiddlers on any rock area. There are still bluefish at the bar on trolled umbrellas and cast Rebels and Tri-Fins.



Barry Ascher of North Shore Anglers weighed in this 51 lb. 10 oz. striper at Port Jeff Sports. It was live-lined in the Sound.

NORTHPORT

Tom at **Bowman's Sporting Goods** said that lots of bluefish are now in the area. They are ranging in weight anywhere from 3 to 15 lbs. with the bigger fish inside the harbors chasing the bunker schools and smaller fish being taken on jigs at the Obstruction Buoy and Buoy 13. Boatmen have been trolling umbrella rigs and bucktails on wire in the vicinity of 13 and Eatons Neck. Blackfish in good supply south of 11b and also at Marshall Field on fiddlers and worms.Good porgy fishing still around the area and some nice flounder being taken from the town dock.

HUNTINGTON

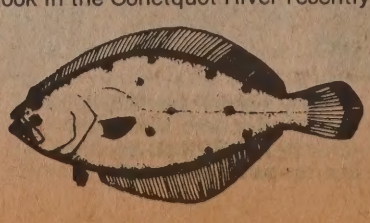
Ronnie of **Ronnie's Bait and Tackle** reported lots of small bass in the area being taken by worm trollers. On Saturday night, John Jr. and Joe Munno had 26 keepers fishing between Target Rock and Marshall Field. Other boatmen scored with catches up to 20 fish. Still very good porgy action at buoy 13 and halfway to 11B on clams and clam chum. While blackfish are beginning to come into their own at 13 and 11b on fiddlers, green crabs and clams. A few flounder starting to show both inside the harbor and out in the Sound. Plenty of 1½ to 3 lb. class blues still being taken by jiggers at the Obstruction buoy. An occasional flurry of activity in the harbors. Dave Kratski took a 12½ lber. on Cold Spring Harbor and dropped five other fish on Friday.

The local head boats **Ever Ready & High Hook** report excellent bluefishing with some striped bass mixed in this past week, mainly on jigs. A hot new lure by Tri-Fin called the Tiger Stripe, has been doing a job on these blue devils. Bob Moore of Flushing won Sunday's pool with a 7 lb. striped bass. Delores Schmidt of Woodbury, set a new record catch on the boat with 37 blues Saturday. James Schneider had the first blue Saturday morning within seconds of the lines down horn. Ann Celliere of Smithtown took the pool with a 7 lb. blue. The bottom fishing runs enjoyed good catches of porgies and the first blackfish of the season off Eaton's Neck and Sand City. The **Ever Ready** will be sailing a Columbus Day special at 6 a.m. for blues and stripers. The **High Hook** will now be sailing two trips daily. See ad for details.

Chris Mailman with 15 of 20 blues he caught recently out of Glen Cove aboard the "Lady Lil II."

GLEN COVE

Dave at **Glen Cove Sport Shop** reported that Kevin Walsh took a 17 lb. 12 oz. chopper on a bunker in the mouth of Hempstead Harbor on Friday. The big blue is the current leader in the bluefish category of the shop contest. While the action has not been consistent, blues from 12 to 17 lbs. are being taken in the harbor. Blackfish are now in good supply in all the rocky areas. Most have been medium sized fish from 2-4 lbs. Flounder and porgy action has improved and lots of small stripers being taken in the area on poppers and Rebels. Many of these fish are shorts. Bill Weiden took over the lead in the trout category of the shop contest with a 1 lb. 11 oz. brown he took in the Conetquot River recently.



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NORTH SHORE WEST END

★ BEST BET ★

BLACKFISH

CITY ISLAND

Jack of **Jack's Bait and Tackle** said that blackfishing is now in full swing with the best scores being made at the old CBS tower and Execution Light. Green crabs and fiddler crabs both working well on the tautogs. Very good porgy fishing being enjoyed by the open boats at Eatons Neck on worms and squid. One captain claims that the current run of fish is the biggest size-wise that he has ever seen, with a number of fish to 3 lbs. being taken each day. Big bluefish have been roaming in and out of the area harassing the bunker schools. Boatmen in the right place at the right times score with choppers up to 20 lbs.

Ian Lindsay took this huge 15 lb. 12 oz. tautog in the western Sound. It was weighed in at Jack's Bait and Tackle in City Island.

SURF REPORT

with Fred Golofaro

Reports from all areas indicate that plenty of surfmen have been giving the Island's beaches a good going over. While no one area has been enjoying "wild fishing" there seem to be enough weaks, bass and blues spread around to keep the adrenalin flowing. This is how things shaped up on the surf front this past week.

South Shore

Lenny of **Santos Sport Shop** in Staten Island spoke of a good showing of school bass at Cliff Street and Penny Beach. Sand worms fished on the bottom have been doing a good job on these fish. Big bluefish have been providing some action along the beach at Great Kills Park with bunker and mackerel chunks doing the job here.

Good action continued from the Jamaica Bay bridges as demonstrated some of the weigh-ins reported by Artie at **Cross Bay Bait and Tackle**. On Thursday, Ron Hunziker used bunker chunks at the Marine Parkway Bridge to put away blues of 13½ and 10½ lbs. Joe Roman took four weaks from 10 to 10¾ lbs., one 12 lber. and a small striper on bunker chunks at the South Channel bridge. Jose Rodriguez put a 10½ lber. atop the South Channel bridge while Dan Regan took a 15 lb. chopper there on Saturday. A pair of nice stripers were also checked into the shop. Thorton Booker used a Danny swimmer on Friday night to put away a 33 lber. at

Eddie and Tommy with a 9½ lb. fluke, a 2 lb. porgy, and 6 lb. weak caught in the Sound off of Smithtown aboard the open boat "North Star."

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NORTH SHORE

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"BLUES BITE BEST AT SUNRISE & SUNSET" — CALL RE: BLUEFISH GUARANTEE

PORGIES•FLUKE•FLOUNDER

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KNUTSON'S MARINA L.I.E. EXIT 49N, END RT. 110 NORTH TO HUNTINGTON, TO END OF NEW YORK AVENUE, FOLLOW SIGNS

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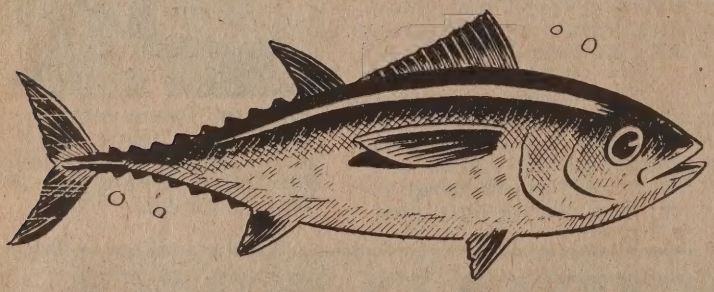

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Riis Park. While Vinnie Calabro used a bunker to take a 40 lb. striper from one of the Rockway jetties on Saturday.

Bass-wise Bernie Haag of Long Beach relayed word that school stripers continue to provide plenty of action for casters in the Long Beach area. A pair of 13 year olds, Danny Pile and Pete Smythe used 1¼ oz. Creek Chub poppers to take 6 schoolies up to 7 lbs. one day last week. Lots of small stripers were taken by other casters during the week according to Bernie on popping plugs and pencil poppers. Bernie also had it from a reliable source that the Magnolia Blvd. surf yielded a 50 lb. striper at low water on Sunday.

The Cedar to Gilgo shore front has been surrendering a few big blues to patient bait fishermen. Live eels work best, although an occasional fish is taken on a mackerel or bunker chunk. Hays, of The Store at Oak Beach who relayed this news noted that there was a flurry of school bass action at the Sore Thumb for four days last week. Small swimming plugs accounted for fish up to 10 lbs. This action died, however, towards the end of the week. A few big weaks also taken on the Thumb on live snappers which are becoming increasingly difficult to obtain.

Ralph at **Augie's Bait and Tackle** could only tell me that surf casters continue to weigh in several big bass each week without leaving any details. Ralph figures the fish must be coming from the Fire Island to Gilgo stretch of ocean front.

Pat Amoroso checked in a 13½ lb. striper at **J&R Sports Center** in Oakdale Thursday morning. Pat took his bass at Democrat Wednesday

A giant bluefin tuna of 1,105 lbs. hangs from the wharf at Gloucester, Mass. It was landed aboard the Mrs. Robinson by Diane Miller of Seaford on her first try for tuna. It currently stands as the largest tuna from the port this season. Subscriber photo.

night on a white darter. One angler who weighed in a 32½ lb. striper did not leave his name, but did say he took the fish on a bunker at Moriches Saturday night.

Newlywed Tom Speckenbach of **Speck's Tackle Shop** in Shinnecock sold Southampton College student John Parks one of his custom rigged eels last Thursday. Fishing incoming water on the east side of the inlet, John added just the right wiggle to entice a 25 lb. striper. A few big blues, as well as bass were taken during the week but action had died by the weekend in the Southampton-Shinnecock area, according to Tom.

A good turnout of anglers out at Montauk over the weekend found decent fishing, with most of the action concentrated up front or along the south side beaches. A mixture of blues, weaks and bass entertain surf men with Alex Goron managing a 26 lb. striper; William Rand, a 23.13 lber., Chip Albion taking a 20 lb. blue and a 13 lb. weak. Most of the action at night has been on yellow Muso darters. Sunday afternoon there was some hectic action with 5-6 lb. blues at Hither Hills. This lasted for about wo hours and tins were being used by most of those on hand. Sunday night, it was predominantly weakfish under the light; while small blues hit the beach at Ditch Plains Monday morning as the report was being given.

North Shore

In the City Island area, some outsize bluefish have been wreaking havoc on the local bunker population. Fifteen-year-old Juanita Leftwich of the Bronx was lucky enough to hang onto a 19¾ lb. chopper from the City Island bridge one day last week. Aside from the bluefish, school bass remain in good numbers in Turtle Cove and the Orchard Beach Lagoon. Small Rebels, bucktails and eel worms still taking the bass, as well as sand worms.

Dave at **Glen Cove Sport Shop** said that the breakwater at the entrance to Hempstead harbor provides casters with an occasional opportunity to cash in on the big blues riding herd on the bunker in the area. Mario Trami fished the breakwater, which is located at Morgan's Point, on Thursday and returned with a 16¼ lb. chopper. A lot of small bass being taken along area beaches on small poppers and Rebels, while the majority of the fish are shorts a few keepers up to 7 lbs. have been mixed in.

Plenty of small stripers along Huntington Beaches according to Ronnie Ferraro of **Ronnie's Tackle Shop**. Here again, however, most of the fish are shorts with an occasional keeper. Frank Stallato managed a 5 lb. bass out of a bunch of shorts at Caumset over the weekend.

Joe Sapienza of Kings Park checked in a pair of nice stripers at **Bowman's Sporting Goods** in Northport last Thursday. The fish taken at ten in the

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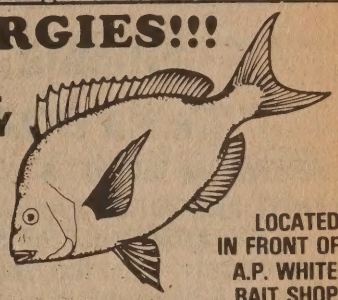

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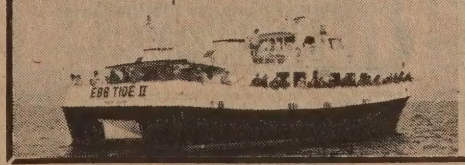
★CITY ISLAND★



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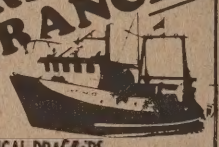

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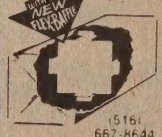

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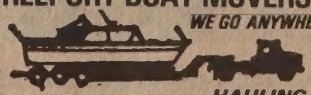

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morning on tins during outgoing water at the mouth of the Nissequogue River weighed 23 lbs. and 20½ lbs. The Crabmeadow and Sand City beaches have been yielding flurries of bluefish action to casters in the right a place at the right time. There's been no pattern to their movements and sizes have ranged anywhere from 3 all the way up to 15 lbs. As was the case along most of the North Shore, a lot of school bass taken by casters on small Rebels, poppers, Tri-Fin eel worms and tins.

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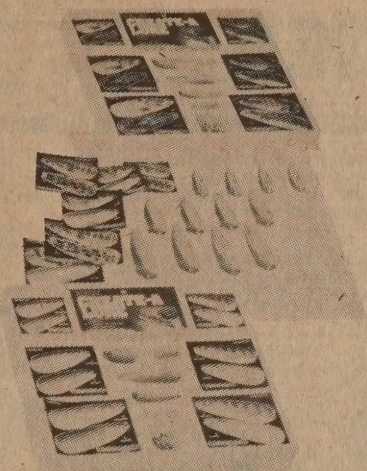
For more information, see your tackle dealer or write: Sevenstrand Tackle Corp., 5401 McFadden Ave., Huntington Beach, Ca. 92649.



DO IT YOURSELF SPOON ASSEMBLY KIT

Create-A-Lure has introduced the Do-It-Yourself Spoon Assembly Kit, now available in all the new Create-A-Lure "Look Alive" and standard patterns. This convenient, economical kit contains everything needed to make a dozen assorted spoons, completely finished.

The Create-A-Lure concept brings five major advantages to spoons that were not possible before: pattern switching, pattern flexibility, tougher finish, economy and convenience. The heart of the Create-A-Lure concept is the ability to switch spoon patterns instantly to meet any and all possible fishing situations.

Create-A-Lure patterns are printed on tough durable vinyl decals that are applied to the spoons, thus adding unlimited pattern flexibility. The decals are virtually indestructible and will not chip, crack, fade or peel off in the water. The kit includes 12 each: split rings, spoon blades, hooks and Create-A-Lure vinyl finishes for easy assembling. No brushes, paint or any special tools are required.

The Spoon Assembly Kit is available in seven pattern assortments including the "Look Alive" in the northern, trout and bass series; the standard in the northern and bass series and the standard flourescent in either the northern and bass series. The Spoon Assembly Kits cost approximately $11.95 per kit.

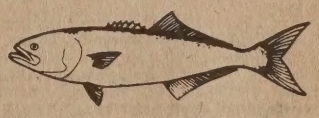
To receive an illustrated data sheet and complete pricing information, write today to: Greg Maertens, Create-A-Lure, Box 95, Cottage Grove, Minnesota 55016.

BOONE'S SWIMMING TOUT II

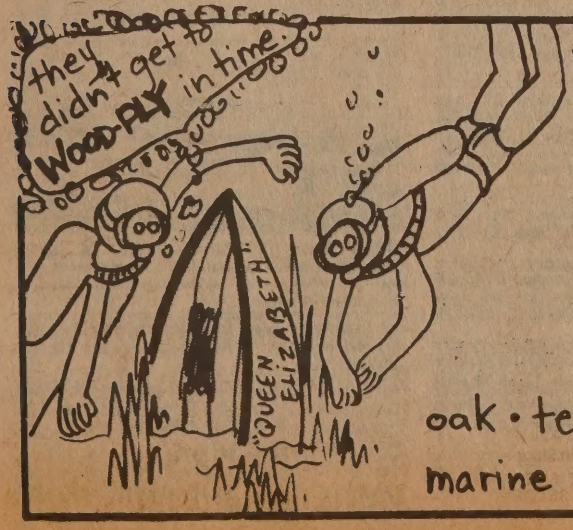
When Boone developed the original Grub Tail Tout, the tackle industry was introduced to an entirely new concept of a leadhead jig combined with a plastic tail. The multitude of manufacturers that have followed Boone's lead has led to Boone's latest slogan, "Either it's a Boone or it's an imitation."

Since the original Grub Tout, Boone has added the Shrimp Tail Tout, the Split Tail Tout and now the newest Swimmer Tout II to the Tout family. Tout II has an active, vibrating, swimming tail. It comes in 1/8, 1/4, 3/8 and 3/4 oz. sizes and will swim at your slowest retrieve speeds.

Look for Tout II at your favorite tackle store or write: Boone, Box 4009, Winter Park, Florida 32793.



BOATING SUPPLIES & SERVICES



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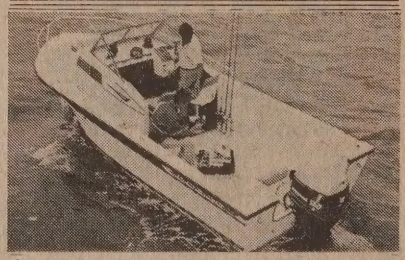

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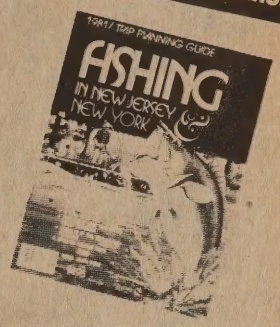

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